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WEEKLY
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Poetry.

COUNTING APPLE SEEDS.

Beside the hearth one winter night
Made rosy by the great log's light
That, flaming up the chimney dark,
Lit every cranny, every nook,
Upon the rug a little maid
Sat curled, in pose demure and staid.

In pensive mood, with dreamy eyes
She sits, while up the chimney flies
A thought with every fiery spark
Glinting and flashing through the dark,
Till with a sigh profound and deep
She moves as one moves in her sleep.

A rosy apple in her hand
A weight of thought seems to demand;
She taps it with a finger light,
Then carefully she takes a bite,
Another bite now one, now two—
The core is thus exposed to view.

Another sigh! what can it be,
My little maid, that aileth thee?
Ah! What is this? Some incantation,
Muttered with such reiteration?
Hark! as each seed her bright eyes see,
These are the words that come to me:

"One I love, two I love,
Three I love, I say!
Four I love with all my heart,
Five—I cast away."

Here a tear rolls brightly down.
What the secret she has won?
Who can say? But just behind
Sounds a voice so soft and kind:
"Look again! Thou must indeed
Find for me another seed!"

Roslar her bright cheeks grow
In the firelight's ruddy glow.
Sure enough! a culprit seed
Finds she in the core indeed—
"From thy lips I fain would hear
What the sixth one means, my dear."

"Six he loves," she murmured low,
And the firelight's flickering glow
Two happy faces now disclose.
With cheeks aglowing like the rose.
But here we'll let the curtain fall,
For the end is best of all.

—Sacramento Union.

WHY THESE TEARS?

What are you weeping for, March?
Why this wet mark of your woe?
Why, with our clothes full of starch,
Should you be going on so?

Have you no care for attire,
Tinsel and laces and gilt,
Uniforms trimmed as with fire,
Swords all ablaze to the hilt?

List to the roll of the drums
And to the tramping of feet!
Mac is the ruler who comes,
Glad are the people to greet!

What are you weeping for, pray?
Wipe every tear from your eyes,
Smile in your pleasantest way,
Cheer up the man with the prize!

He will need all of your cheer,
He will need all of the starch,
Moisten no thread with a tear!
Give him your blessing, O March!

—Columbus Dispatch.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPELLED.

If some one of you,
With nothing to do,
Should wish to go through,
With little ado,
A sort of review
Of words not a few,
You will find it quite true
That a thousand or two
Were hard to construe.

Take, for instance a shoe,
Or the tree called a yew,
Or the red, white and blue,
When our flag floats in view.

Take a Chinaman's queue,
Which he thinks quite too true
Or a farmer's pet cow,
Or that horned beast the gnu;
Or how it would do
To take the St. Marie Sault,
Pronounced like oo?
I'll wager a sou
It would puzzle a Jew,
Or a Parsee or Sioux,
Not to get things askew.

We might interview
Our Chauncey Depew,
But that we'll eschew
And now say adieu.

—J. H. Kent.

Miscellany.

WIT IN AN ENGLISH COURT.

Trial in an Action for Libel Brings Out Queer Evidence.

In the queen's bench division in London recently, before Justice Cave and a special jury, the case of Weller and another vs. Mess was heard. This was an action brought by William Hamilton Weller and Randall Sacheverel Bradburn carrying on business as Hamilton Weller & Co., against Henry Hess, editor and proprietor of the African Critic, to recover damages for alleged libel. The plaintiffs' case was that in February, 1896, the following paragraph appeared in the defendant's paper: "The Total Gold Extraction Company, limited. This concern has been floated to extract gold from ore. It appears to be ushered into the world by Hamilton Weller & Co., of 155 Fenchurch street, who state that they are authorized to offer for sale 10,000 of its £5 shares, fully paid, at the price of £2 15s per share, and they desire to extract the sum of £27,500 from the public. Up to the present, however, they have only managed to get the solicitors of the company, Messrs. E. J. Bellot & Co., of 7 King street, Cheapside, to disown the precious touting prospectus and everything that accompanied it. Under the circumstances I may be doing the company an injustice to criticise its merits in the statement made in Hamilton Weller & Co.'s circular, and I only now want to warn my readers not to have anything to do with these people, and not to allow the gold extraction process to be worked on their pockets."

The defendant pleaded justification. The plaintiff, Hamilton Weller, was called, and in cross-examination by Mr. Carson, Q. C., said the statements in the prospectus were made on the authority of two of the directors. He did not make any investigation as to the truth although his firm's name appeared on it. His firm were simply to receive subscriptions, and were to get £1,500 for commission.

Mr. Carson—Do you think now, with your knowledge of the matter, that it is a severe criticism to say, "this precious touting prospectus?"

The plaintiff—Yes.

Justice Cave—It does not seem to me to be half severe enough. (Laughter.)

The plaintiff (to Mr. Carson)—I have no proof that what you say is correct.

Mr. Carson—Don't you think that Mr. Hess' advice was very sensible?

The plaintiff—It may have been, but not a proper thing to say of us.

This was the plaintiff's case, and the jury here intimating that they did not wish to hear any more, judgment was entered for the defendant.

Her Plan.

He—"Do you believe in long engagements?"
She—"Well, it all depends."
He—"I don't understand."
She—"If he has plenty of money and is inclined to be liberal, a long engagement is the thing, but if he cannot afford boxes at the opera and such things I always make his time very short."—Philadelphia Leader.

BUST OF PRESIDENT M'KINLEY,

Soon to Be Placed in the Rotunda of the Ohio Capitol—How It Was Secured.

Captain Josiah B. Allen, clerk of the supreme court, is in daily expectation of a marble bust of President McKinley, of which the above is a representation. It is on its way here from Italy and upon arrival will be placed in the rotunda of the state house. It was secured through the friendship between Captain Allen and Wirt Leland, of New York city, formerly a railroad man of Athens, where Captain Allen lives. The bust is cut from Italy's celebrated Carrara marble and is pure white, about four feet high, standing on a marble pedestal of the same height and with an American eagle engraved in front. Mr. Leland's uncle owns the Carrara quarries. Fidardo Landi is the sculptor.

THE OLDEST SOLDIER.

A Comrade of the Rebellion Who Is Ninety-Seven Years Old.

If there is a soldier of the rebellion living who is older than the subject of this sketch the Blade as well as the Swanton, O., Enterprise wants to know it. During the past month the editor of the Enterprise has made a canvass of the old veterans of Fulton county to find which one is the oldest. The investigation brings to the front James S. Smith, who now resides in Swanton.

"Uncle Jimmy," as he has been called for 40 years, is now 97 years old, having been born in Monticello, N. Y., March 14, 1800. His exact age has been unknown even to himself until last September, when his pension attorney was obliged to produce evidence of his time and place of birth. This was done by corresponding with the priest of his native town, Monticello. By searching the old church records, he found the date of his birth and christening, as stated above.

JAMES S. SMITH.
Oldest Surviving Soldier of the Rebellion.

He is as active and bright as most men at the age of 70, and lately gave to a Blade correspondent the following brief sketch of his life:

He shipped in 1813 in the receiving ship that lay off New York and was taken aboard the Grampus, a ship detailed to run down pirates on the Brazilian coast, but was taken out at Rio Janiero by his father after 16 months service by reason of his being under age. Sailed a vessel from New York to Jacksonville, Fla., as provender during the Seminole war and was discharged in April, 1842.

He enlisted in Company A, Sixty-seventh Regiment O. V. I., Nov. 4, 1861, and was discharged by reason of disability soon after the battle of Fort Wagner, serving 19 months.

English in the Court Room.

"Who are those students with books under their arms?"

"They are taking up the law."

"And what's the old man in a gown back of that bench doing?"

"Oh, he's laying it down."—New York Press.

Will Shrink.

Moses Junior—"Fader, a shentleman in de shop vants to know if dat all-wool nonshrinkable shirt will shrink?"

Moses Senior—"Does it fid him?"

Moses Junior—"No; id is too big."

Moses Senior—"Yah, id vill shrink!"—Tit-Bits.

A Heavy Contract.

Brother Johnson—Yes, sah, we'se agwine to fight de debil wif fire.

Brother Jackson—But you'se all has got to remember de ole man's got a powerful lot of ammunition hisself.—Yale Record.

Inconsiderate Father.

Hattie—What's the matter with Gustavus? He never calls any more.

Hortense—Why, one night when he was at the house I called him the "light of my life" and papa came in and said it was about time the light was put out.—Yonkers Statesman.

LAUGHTER A DISEASE.

It Occasionally Produces Untoward and Dangerous Results.

Is laughter a disease? It sometimes is unquestionably so, and it has been known to cause death. Some eminent neurologists have declared even moderate laughter a symptom of nervous hysteria, and therefore abnormal and indicative of something wrong, says the New York World.

European physicians are now busy discussing the case of a man in Australia who is suffering from a nervous disease which manifests itself in paroxysms of laughter. He is about 30 years old and for several years has been afflicted with uncontrollable fits of laughter, which occurred every few months. These gradually increased in frequency, until now he laughs a dozen or more times a day; in fact, he is laughing nearly all of the time.

In the intervals between attacks the man is perfectly well. When an attack comes on it first manifests itself in a tickling at the extremity of the toes of the left foot. The man began laughing, and, as the tickling sensation extended up the body, his laughter became uncontrollable. When the feeling reached the level of the breast the man lost consciousness for a short time, after which he fully recovered. These attacks usually lasted about two minutes. While they continued the man laughed in a forced and mirthless way.

Dr. George F. Shrady, of 8 East Sixty-sixth street, the eminent specialist, says that he has heard of such cases, but he has never seen a man who laughed too much.

"Laughter is a function when it is normal," he added, "and it becomes a disease only when it is without cause and cannot be controlled. As Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, the human system is run by both water power and wind power. Tears typify the water and laughter the wind. I suppose one power is as natural as the other, and each is equally normal and harmless. Laughter is merely excess of enjoyment. It becomes a disease only when its character has changed. In every asylum there are patients who cry too much and too easily, and there are others whose loud laughter can be heard all through the building. Such laughter is a symptom of insanity, and is due to hyper-excitation of the laughing centers.

"We would be better off as a race if there were more laughing. I think that the man who laughs too easily is better off than the misanthrope who never laughs at all. We know that laughter aids digestion, and that it acts beneficially in many nervous disorders. I cannot think that all laughter is a disease, or that it is a symptom of a nervous disorder. The man who never laughs needs more attention than the man who laughs too much. As long as there is mirth in the laughter, it is all right."

WHISTLING NOT A BAD HABIT.

At Least It Was Not in the Case of This Boy.

The boy in the following story is described as never saying anything remarkable, as eating oatmeal in large quantities, chasing the cat, slamming the door, and otherwise conducting himself after the manner of boys; with the exception that he asks few questions and does much thinking, says Bright Jewels. If he does not understand a thing, he whistles, which is not a bad habit—on some occasions.

There was much whistling in our yard one summer. It seemed to be an all-summer performance. Near the end of the season, however, our boy announced the hight of our tall maple to be 33 feet.

"Why, how do you know?" was the general question.

"Measured it."

"How?"

"Four-foot rule and a yardstick."

"You didn't climb that tall tree?" his mother asked, anxiously.

"No'm; I just found the length of the shadow, and measured that."

"But the length of the shadow changes."

"Yes'm, but twice a day the shadows are just as long as things themselves. I've been trying it all summer. I drove a stick into the ground, and when the shadow was just as long as the stick I knew that the shadow of the tree would be just as long as the tree, and that's 33 feet."

"So that is what you have been whistling about all summer?"

"Did I whistle?" asked Tom.

The Reason.

"Vot for dey make all de shout?"

"Because a goel was taken."

"And ees id because of all de noise dat you do call de game de foot bawl?"—Judy.

HERRMANN'S GREAT TRICK EXPLAINED.

HOW HE CAUGHT BULLETS HOT FROM RIFLES HELD BY GOOD MARKSMEN.

The Sergeant in Charge of the Firing Party Was an Accessory—Magician's Great Peril.

Now that Herrmann the Great is gone, there can be no harm in explaining how his wonderful trick of catching the bullets shot at him by six national guardsmen was done. It will be remembered that Herrmann performed this striking feat twice for the benefit of the New York Herald's ice fund—once on August 1, 1894, and again last May.

On both occasions the famous prestidigitateur stood alone upon the stage, while six picked marksmen from the state national guard fired point blank upon him from a platform built in the audience. On both occasions Herrmann, pale of face and painfully alert, caught the bullets, previously marked by a committee of noted army men, and handed them back hot from the barrels for identification.

Of course it was a trick, but it was a dangerous trick, and one that Herrmann disliked to do. But even he was less nervous than the marksmen, who acting in perfect good faith, feared that they might kill the plucky magician.

Many have been the alleged explanations of this trick published in various newspapers. They have all been wrong. Herrmann himself told the Herald how it was done, and here it is:

Of course there was an accomplice, and this accomplice was not one of the marksmen, but the sergeant in charge of them. The sergeant took the six regulation army bullet cartridges on a silver platter to the committee.

The committee examined them, made sure they were genuine, marked them plainly and replaced them on the platter. The sergeant instantly raised the platter in plain sight at arm's length above his head, walked over to the marksmen, and they themselves each took a cartridge, examined it and placed it in the rifle. Then came the shooting.

The trick lay in the platter, which had a false bottom. Under this bottom lay six other cartridges identical in size, weight and appearance, but holding bullets made of a composition of plumbago and mercury. When the sergeant held the platter aloft, he touched a spring and by a clever mechanism these six fake cartridges jumped into the platter, while the genuine cartridges disappeared beneath the false bottom.

So it was the composition cartridges that the marksmen unknowingly put into their rifles, and on firing this composition was instantly melted by friction through the barrels and dissipated in the air.

Meantime, however, the supposedly empty platter was taken behind the wings, where the genuin cartridges were drawn out, quickly heated and carefully placed by an attendant on a table, where Herrmann, just before the firing, carelessly picked them up and palmed them. Holding them in his hands during the firing, he immediately produced them as the smoke cleared away.

A simple trick, but a very dangerous one, for if the platter's mechanism failed to work completely, one or more of the genuine cartridges might have got into the rifles of the marksmen and thence into Herrmann's body.

A RIBBON DRESS.

Revival of the Old-Fashioned Way of Trimming a Gown With Loops of Silk.

The newest models of skirts show them fully trimmed. Old-fashioned you call them, until the saleswoman assures you that they are the newest importations.

One of these ribbon-trimmed dresses might have been worn by a girl of twenty years ago. The vest is of wood-colored cashmere, over which are draped surplice fronts of fawn-colored cloth. The skirt is of plain fawn, without the godet effect at the back. The trimming of the skirt consists of side pieces of wood-colored ribbon, falling from the belt to the knees. Knots of brown ribbon trim the bodice and belt.

This style was a favorite, years ago, with those who wanted to remodel an old dress, and it will again become a favorite with many for the same economic reason.

A REMODELLED GOWN.

His Regret.

"What are you crying about, Willie?"

"I feel bad."

"Did you eat too much at Charlie's party?"

"No, sir, that's the trouble. I feel bad because I didn't eat more."—Yonkers Statesman.

His Mistake.

Bloomfield—Spiffins is fond of saying that he is a self-made man.

Bellefield—That's queer. Everybody knows that he is a tailor-made dude.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Permanently.

"What on earth induced you, John? You gave that waiter $5 for a tip, and he was the worst I ever.

"That's just it, my dear. I wanted to enable him to retire."—Harper's Bazar.

Cheering.

"No, Mr. Coolhand," she said, kindly, "I am sure I could never learn to love you."

"Oh, perhaps you could," rejoined Coolhand, cheerfully. "Never too old to learn, you know."—Judy.

Our Serial Story.

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"The Clock Struck One"

By FERGUS HUME.

Author of "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," "The Lone Inn," "The Expedition of Captain Flick," "The Mystery of Landy Court, etc.

CHAPTER XXI.—SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

Mrs. Tice was right; marriage with Allen was out of the question. He could not make the daughter of a murderer his wife; no power, human or divine, would sanction such a union. Dora no longer wondered at Allen's strange silence. It was natural that he should shrink from telling her so terrible a story, and from branding her father with the terrible name of assassin. She remembered how she had been glad to know that her father had died without killing Edermont; that he had gone to his account without blood on his hands. No wonder Pallant had chuckled at her ignorance, and had forborne to enlighten her. George Carew had taken a life in cold blood, with deliberation and malice aforethought. She, Dora Carew, was the daughter of a criminal.

Dora said little to Mrs. Tice after the story had been told. Indeed, there was nothing to say; for she knew her fate only too well. She could never marry Allen; and if she did not become Joad's wife to save her lover from arrest, and possibly condemnation, she would be forced to remain single for the rest of her life, lonely and sorrowful. The sins of the father had been visited on the child, and Dora was reaping the harvest of blood which George Carew had sown. Morally speaking, the end of all things had come to Dora.

"I shall go over to Canterbury with you," she said to Mrs. Tice, "and say good-bye to Allen. I can never marry him; but I can at least see him for the last time, and tell him that he is safe from Joad."

"But my dear young lady, you will not marry that wicked man?"

"If I can save Allen in no other way I must," said Dora firmly. "Consider his position, Mrs. Tice, should Joad accuse him of the crime! He quarreled with Edermont; he came here at the very hour of the murder; and when he left the house Edermont was dead. To all this circumstantial evidence he can oppose only his bare word. I tell you he is in danger of being hanged, Mrs. Tice. Nothing is left for me to do save to marry Joad. He dare not speak them."

"The real assassin may be found yet," suggested Mrs. Tice hopefully.

"There is little chance of that, I am afraid. When all these hundreds of men, stimulated by that gigantic reward, have failed to track the murderer, how can I hope to succeed? No, Mrs. Tice; the name of the criminal will never be known, so it only remains for me to see Allen for the last time, and return here to be Joad's wife."

The housekeeper sighed. This, indeed, appeared to be the sole way out of the difficulty, and she could offer no advice on the subject. It went to her heart that Dora should marry so disreputable a creature; but as the reason for such marriage was the safety of Allen Scott she was content that it should take place. In her love for Allen, the old nurse would have sacrificed a hundred women. Dora's fate was hard; she admitted that; but it was necessary.

Allen proved to be less ill than they expected to find him. He was annoyed that Mrs. Tice had been sent for, although he was glad to see both her and Dora. Nevertheless, he protested against being considered a sick man, or that he should take to his bed.

"I'm not well enough to go about my work," he said candidly; "at the same time I am not sufficiently ill to retire to a sick-room. I shall be all right in a day or two."

He did not look as though he would recover in so short a time. In default of bed, he was lying on a sofa in the dining-room, covered with a rug, and he appeared to be thoroughly ill. His eyes were bright, his hands were burning, and every now and again he shivered with cold, as though suffering from an attack of ague. Mrs. Tice made him some beef-tea, and insisted upon his taking it, which he did after much persuasion.

"You see, Dora," he said with a smile, "the doctor has to be prescribed for by his old nurse. All my science and knowledge goes for nothing in comparison to Mrs. Tice's remedies."

"I know what is common-sense," said Mrs. Tice, smiling also. "Lie still, Mr. Allen, and keep warm. Miss Carew will sit with you here while I look after the house. I daresay it has been dreadfully neglected in my absence."

"That is hardly a compliment to my management," said Allen, trying to smile.

"Oh, as to that, no gentleman can look after a house, Mr. Allen. It's woman's work to see to such things. Let me manage at present, and when I am gone your wife can take my place."

"Wife!" echoed Dr. Scott with a sigh. "I shall never marry."

Dora said nothing, but bent her head to hide the despair written on her face. Feeling that she had said too much, Mrs. Tice hastened to excuse herself; in doing so, she only succeeded in making matters worse. The name of Joad occurred in the midst of her excuses, and Allen made a feeble gesture of displeasure.

"I wish you would not mention that creature!" he said, clasping Dora's hand. "I hate him as much as Dora does. He is her enemy and mine."

"But for all that I must marry him, Allen."

"No. You must not sacrifice yourself."

"Mr. Allen, be sensible!" cried Mrs. Tice. "You stand in a dreadful position; you are at the mercy of Joad. Should he speak you are lost."

"I can tell my story."

Dora shook her head. "It will not be believed in the face of Joad's evidence," said she dolefully; "and then the quarrel you had with Mr. Edermont gives color to his accusation."

Dr. Scott made a gesture of dissent, but Mrs. Tice supported Dora. "She is right, Mr. Allen. If Joad speaks you are lost. Talk it over with Miss Carew, sir, and I'll hear what you think when I come back. Just now I must look after the house."

When she left the room, Allen waited until the door was closed, then turned to look at Dora. She was sitting by the side of the sofa with a drooping head, and a sad expression on her face. Moved by her silent sorrow, and ascribing it rightly to the unhappy position in which they stood to one another, he took her hands within his own.

"Do not look so sad, Dora," he said softly; "I shall be better shortly. It is the knowledge of what was told to me by Mr. Edermont which has made me ill. But I shall recover, my dear, and bear my troubles like a man."

Dora burst into tears. "I can only bear my troubles like a woman," she sobbed. "O Allen, Allen! what have we done, you and I, that we should be made so unhappy? You are in a very dangerous position, and I can save you only by marrying a man I detest."

"Dora, you must not marry Joad. I cannot accept safety at the price of your life-long misery."

"What does it matter about my marrying that creature?" she said, drying her tears. "I can never become your wife."

Allen groaned. "True, true; ah, how true it is that the sins of the father are visited on the children! It is shameful that we should suffer for the evil of others."

"We cannot help our position, Allen. There is no hope."

"You are right," said Allen in a despairing tone; "there is no hope. Ah, Dora, if you only knew the truth!"

"I do know the truth."

"Who told you?" he asked, sitting up with a look of astonishment.

"Lady Burville told me that——"

"Lady Burville!" he interrupted sharply; "what does she know?"

"Everything. And it is no wonder, seeing that she is the root of all the evil."

"How do you mean that she is the root of all the evil?"

"Lady Burville is my mother, Allen."

"Great Heavens! Your mother—Mrs. Carew!"

"Yes, Mrs. Carew, Mrs. Dargill, Lady Burville, whatever you like to call her. I know her story, Allen, and what she failed to relate Mrs. Tice told. I know that my father killed yours, and that we can never marry."

"Lady Burville—your mother told you this!" he stammered—"and I was so careful to hide the truth from you."

"I know you spared me in the goodness of your heart, Allen, but it was better that I should know the truth. Yes, I went up to town; I restored the pearl brooch to Lady Burville—I can not call her my mother—and I heard her story."

"Dora!" Allen seized her hand again. "Did your mother kill Mr. Edermont?"

"No. Thank God, she is innocent of that crime."

"Then how was it I found her brooch by the dead body?"

"She dropped it in the room when she went to see Mr. Edermont on that night."

"But why did she see Edermont?"

"He sent for her to deliver up a packet of letters she had written to him. It is a long story, and a sad one. Listen, and I will tell you all."

Allen signified his desire to hear the story, and listened eagerly while she told him what her mother had related. To make the information complete, Dora passed on to the history of the murder, as told by Mrs. Tice. When she finished, and Allen was in possession of all the facts, she waited for him to comment thereon. This he was not long in doing.

"I see that you know all, Dora," he said, with a melancholy smile. "Yes, this is what Mr. Edermont told me on that day. I lost my head when he ended; I believe I advanced towards him in a threatening manner, to thrash him for the share he had taken in the matter. It was then that he threw up the window and cried out that I wished to kill him. Probably I was wrong to act as I did, as the miserable little creature was not responsible for the death of my father; but I did not consider that at the moment. When he cried out to you and Joad, I left the room, and the house. You remember, I would not speak to you when I went, I could not, my dear, the revelation had proved too much for my self-control. I felt half-mad, for I saw that I had lost you forever."

"And why did you go up to London?" asked Dora anxiously.

"Edermont referred me to a file of the Morning Planet, containing an account of the tragedy which ended in the death of my father."

"You went up to see an account of your father's murder?"

"Yes. I could not bring myself to believe that matters were so bad as he made them out. But in London I went to the office of the paper; I turned up the report, and it was true enough. Your father shot mine, as was stated by Edermont. Afterwards I went down to Christchurch and found out the rest of the story from an old housekeeper."

"Did you learn that Lady Burville was my mother?"

"No; nor did Edermont tell me so. Why, I do not know. He only stated the bare facts of the case, and how my father had been killed. Now you know why I told you nothing, Dora—why I kept silent. I was afraid lest your father should be arrested for the double murder and bring shame and pain on you, my poor dear."

"The double murder?"

"Yes. George Carew killed my father; and, in accordance with his oath, I believe he murdered Mr. Edermont—found him out after many years and killed him."

"You are wrong, Allen. I told you how Pallant blackmailed my mother, and learnt the whole story from my wretched father. Well, Capt. Carew died two years ago in San Francisco."

"Are you sure?"

"I am certain. He died in Mr. Pallant's arms. Pallant has no reason to lie over that story."

"Then, if Carew did not kill Edermont, who did?"

"Ah," said Dora with a weary sigh, "that is just what we must find out, if only to save your life and prevent my marrying Joad."

"Dora," said Allen after a pause, "do you know why Pallant wanted that packet of letters?"

"Yes. He desired to confirm his possession of my mother. By threatening to show the letters to Sir John Burville he hoped to get whatever money he wished."

"The scoundrel! What particular information did the letters contain to render them so valuable?"

"I don't know. Mr. Pallant hinted that they were about me."

"About you?" Allen reflected for a few moments. "Dora," he said at length, "I dare say those letters passed between your mother and your guardian after the tragedy at Christchurch. Probably they contained a full account of the crime, and details as to how your mother parted with you. In fact, I believe they contained the summary of Lady Burville's life. If Pallant had obtained those letters, no wonder he could have extorted money. If they had been shown to Sir John Burville, his wife—your mother—could have denied nothing. Her own handwriting would prove the falsity of her denial."

"I quite understand," said Dora; "but Mr. Edermont was wise enough to give them to my mother himself."

"And that is just it!" cried Allen. Supposing Lady Burville had unconsciously let Pallant know that she was going to the Red House to receive the letters, supposing he followed her, and was too late to intercept the packet. Do you think he might have killed Edermont in a fit of rage at losing the letters?"

"No, Allen, I do not think so for a moment. Mr. Pallant is too cautious to act so foolishly. Besides, if it was as you say, he could easily have followed Lady Burville along that lonely road, and have forced her to give him the letters. No. Whosoever killed my guardian, it was not Mr. Pallant."

"Then who is guilty?" asked Allen in despair.

"Ah!" said Dora with a melancholy sigh. "That secret is worth £50,000 and your life, my dear Allen."

CHAPTER XXII.—WHAT DORA DISCOVERED.

When Dora took leave of Allen, she returned to the Red House with the firm conviction that, to save the doctor, she would be obliged to marry Joad. In the face of this old man's evidence she did not see how Allen could defend himself. It was true that he could produce the letters of Mr. Edermont, giving him a midnight invitation to his study; but such production would not mend matters. It would only show that he had been present at the very hour of the murder, and would confirm the evidence of Joad. Once that was proved, what plea could be put forward to prove his innocence? None. A quarrel might have taken place on the subject of their previous conversation; and Allen might have killed Edermont in a fit of rage. That was the view Dora truly believed, which the judge and jury would take of the matter. And, on the face of it, what view could be more reasonable?

It was no use bringing Lady Burville into the question, for her evidence could throw no light on the subject. When she left the house, Edermont was alive; when Scott arrived the old man was dead, and there was nothing to show that anyone had been in the study between Lady Burville's departure and Dr. Scott's arrival. Medical evidence could prove that Lady Burville was too feeble a woman to strike so terrible a blow; of too nervous a character to carry out so brutal a crime. No, if Lady Burville came into court, it would be to save herself and to condemn Allen. Under these circumstances, it only remained to hush the matter up by granting Joad's wish. Dora hated the man, but for the sake of Allen she decided to marry him. Yet, as she said had a few days' grace before giving him his answer, she resolved to say nothing of her resolution at present. It might be that in the interval the real criminal might be discovered.

All that night Dora tossed and tossed on her bed, courting sleep in vain. She was like a rat in a trap, running round and round in the endeavor to escape. She would have done anything rather than consent to this marriage with Joad; but unless some miracle intervened she saw no chance of escaping the ceremony. To be saddled with such a husband; to live in constant companionship with such a satyr! The poor girl wept bitterly at the very thought. What would she feel when Joad demanded payment of the price of his silence?

Towards morning she fell into an uneasy slumber, and awoke more despondent than ever. It was with a listless air that she descended to breakfast, and only with a strong effort she force herself to eat. Meg Gance, who brought in the meal, informed her Mr. Joad was already in the library, engrossed in his daily occupation.

"He come here afore nine," said Meg, who was a large, stupid country woman, with more muscle than brains; "it wasn't so when master lived, was it, Miss Dora?"

"No. But I dont' suppose it matters much now when Mr. Joad comes, Meg."

"I dunno 'bout that," said the servant, putting her large hands on her hips; "it takes long to clean up bookshop, it do. I rarely get it done afore nine. I declare, miss, when M. Joad come this morn, I couldn't believe my eyes too late. Thought I, clock's gone wrong again."

"What clock?" asked Dora, remembering the strange remark made by Pallant.

"Lor, miss, how sharp you speak!" said Meg, rather startled by the abruptness of the question. "Why, clock in hall, for sure!"

"Was it ever wrong, Meg?"

"A whole hour, miss. Though how it could have lost hour in night I dunno. But it was ten when I looked at it in morning, while kitchen clock was nine. Too fast by hour, Miss Dora."

"On what night was it wrong?" asked Dora, eagerly feeling that she was on the verge of a discovery.

"Why, miss, it went wrong on night master had head bashed. Not as I wonder, miss, for my aunt had husband as died, and clock—her clock, miss—struck thirteen. Seems as clock knows of deaths and funerals," concluded Meg reflectively.

"Was the clock in the hall wrong by an hour when you saw it in the morning after the crime had been committed?"

"For sure, Miss Dora. But for bless you, miss, it don't matter. I jes' put it right by kitchen clock, as has never lost a minute since I came here, and that's six years, miss."

"Why did you not mention that the clock was wrong when you gave your evidence?"

Meg stared at her mistress. "I never thought, miss," she said gravely; "and I wasn't asked about clock. It didn't matter, I hope?"

"No," replied Dora carelessly, "it didn't matter. You need say nothing about it to Mr. Joad, or indeed to anyone."

"I ain't much of a chat any time, miss," cried Meg, losing her head, "and as for Mr. Joad, I'd as lief speak to blackbeetle. I won't say naught, bless you, no, miss."

"Very well, Meg. You can clear away."

This Meg did with considerable clatter and clamor, while Dora left the room, and without putting on a hat walked slowly across the lawn in the dewy freshness of the morning. On reaching the beehive chair under the cedar, which was Joad's favorite outdoor study, the girl sat down, and looked contemplatively at the scene before her. A space of sunlit lawn, with a girdle of flaming rhododendrons fringing it on the right, tall poplar-draped wall; and beyond the wall itself the red-tiled roof of Joad's cottage, showing in picturesque contrast against the delicate azure of an August sky. After regarding the scene to right and left, as it lay steeped in the yellow sunlight, Dora's gaze finally rested on the glimpse of Joad's house. There it stayed, and her thoughts reverted to the remark about the clock made by Pallant, and to the later explanation given by Meg Gance. What connection these things had with Joad may be gathered from the girl's thoughts.

They ran something after this fashion: "Could it be possible that Joad had killed Edermont? There seemed to be no motive for his committing the crime, and he was not the kind of man to run needlessly into danger. Yet the discovery about the clock was certainly very strange. If it was correct on the night of the murder," meditated Dora. "I set my watch by it before I went upstairs, that was at half-past nine, and my watch has been right ever since. When Meg looked at it in the morning it was an hour wrong; therefore somebody must have put it wrong with intent. It is impossible that so excellent a clock could suddenly slip for an hour and then go on again. Could Joad have been in the house on that night, and have put it on an hour? At the time of the murder the clock struck one, and at that hour Joad, according to his own showing and Mr. Pride's corroboration, was in the cottage. If the clock had been put wrong, the murder must have taken place at twelve, since it was an hour fast in the morning. There was ample time for Joad to commit the crime at twelve and be back in his cottage by one."

Dora got up and walked restlessly to and fro. She could not quite understand why the clock should have been put on an hour, so as to give a false time, when there was no one to hear it in the night. That she had woke up and heard it strike was quite an accident, although there had been nights when she had heard every hour, every chime, strike till dawn. Suddenly she remembered that once she had said something to Joad about her sleepless nights. On the impulse of the moment, she walked into the library.

"Mr. Joad," she said to the old man, who was reading near the window, "that hall clock."

It seemed to Dora that a pallor crept over the red face of the man she addressed. However, he looked up quietly enough, and spoke to her with the greatest calmness.

"What about the hall clock, Miss Dora?" he asked in a puzzled tone.

"It is disturbing me again. I really must have it removed. In the dead hours I hear it strike in the most ghostly, graveyard fashion. As it did on that night," she concluded under her breath.

"Do you have many sleepless nights now?"

"How do you know that I have sleepless nights at all?" she asked quickly.

Joad looked at her in surprise. "You told me so yourself shortly before we lost Julian," he said quietly. "It was toothache, was it not?"

"Yes—something of that sort," she answered carelessly. "But it is not toothache now. Still I lie awake thinking."

"Of me?" said Joad with a leer.

"The week is not yet over, Mr. Joad," she said coldly; "till the end of it you have no right to ask me such a question. Good-bye for the present; I am going out on my bicycle."

This was an excuse. Confident that Joad had altered the clock, on the chance that she would hear it during her sleepless nights, she was confident also that for such reason, and for a more terrible one, he had been in the house on the night of the murder.

"He put on the clock so as to prove an alibi," she thought, wheeling her bicycle down the path to the gate. "If he killed Edermont at 12 o'clock—the right time when it struck I—he would have ample opportunity of getting back to his cottage through the postern. I quite believe that he was with Pride at 1 o'clock; but I also believe he was in the study at 12."

She had proved to her own satisfaction that Joad could have been in the house, she wished to discover if he had killed Edermont. The assassin had committed the crime to obtain the manuscript containing the story of her guardian's life. If Joad were guilty, that manuscript would be in his possession. This was why Dora resumed herself on a speed of riding her bicycle. She was determined to search Joad's cottage and find out if the manuscript was hidden there.

With this intent she hid the bicycle behind the hedge on the other side of the road, and went to the cottage. There was plenty of time for her to search, as Joad took his midday meal in the Red House, and never returned to his house until 9 at night. She had the whole day at her disposal, and determined to search every corner for the manuscript she believed to be hidden. If she found it, she would then be able to prove Allen guiltless and Joad guilty. It would be a magnificent revenge on her part. The man would be caught in his own trap.

It can be guessed by what steps Dora had arrived at this conclusion—the chance remark of Pallant anent the possibility of the clock being wrong, the chance explanation of Meg, which proved that the clock was an hour fast on the morning after the murder had taken place; the memory of her own remark to Joad about her sleepless night, and the conclusion that the old man had put the clock wrong for purposes of his own. The inference to be drawn from these facts was that Joad had been in the house on the night of the 2d of August. If he had been in the house it was probable that he had killed Edermont, since Allen and Lady Burville—the only two people who had been present at the same hour—were innocent. If Joad had been proved by sundry scraps of evidence that the murder had been committed to obtain possession of the manuscript. Therefore, if Joad were guilty he must have hidden the fruits of his crime. Where? In the cottage, without doubt.

The front door of the cottage was locked, so Dora went round to the back. She knew that Joad was in the habit of hiding the key of the back door under the water butt, and sure enough she found it there. To open the door and pass into his study was the work of a moment. So here she was in the stronghold of the enemy. But where was the manuscript?

The room was not very large, and lined on all four sides with books. A writing-desk littered with papers stood before the single window, and a few chairs were scattered round. There were also a horse-hair sofa, a small sideboard of varnished deal, three or four china ornaments and a little clock on the mantelpiece. The floor was covered with straw matting, but what the pattern of the paper was like no one could tell, for it was hidden completely by the books. The whole apartment looked penurious in the extreme and very untidy. Books lay on chairs and sofas, and the fire-place was filled with torn-up letters, newspapers, and hastily scribbled manuscripts.

"The books first," decided Dora, after a look at this chaos.

There was no need to go through them one by one, for dust lay thickly upon bindings and shelves. She had only to glance to see that which had been disturbed within the last few weeks. Those that had been taken down she examined carefully, but could find no trace of the manuscript. She looked on top of the bookcase, went down on her knees to search the lower shelves, and still found nothing. At the end of an hour, Dora had come across no trace of the wished-for paper. He had hidden it—always presuming that it was in his possession—more cunningly than she had thought.

"Now for the desk."

Another hour's search in drawers and pigeon-holes and blotting-pad likewise revealed nothing. Dora emptied out the whole paperbasket, and sorted every scrap, still she was unsuccessful. Then she lifted portions of the matting, removed the cushions of the chairs, searched the sideboard and dived into the recesses of the sofa. All to no purpose.

"Perhaps he has not got it after all," thought Dora, disappointed, "or he has burnt it."

Burning suggested the fireplace. But she saw that there had not been a fire for months in the grate. It then struck her that Mr. Joad might have taken an idea from Poe's Purloined Letter, and have hidden the manuscript in some conspicuous place. The fireplace alone was unsearched, so she went down on her knees and turned out the disorderly mass of papers. Her patience was rewarded at last. From under the heap she drew forth a crumpled mass of paper, foolscap size, and spread it out carefully. Then she uttered a cry. "The Confession of Julian Dargill, better known as Julian Edermont," she read. "Ah! I was right! Here is the stolen story of the

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Rare Coins.

A. S., New Richmond, Ind.: It is unfortunate that the date can not be told on the rubbing you sent us of a cent. If it is of 1856, it is worth $1; if of 1857 or 1858, and made of an alloy of copper and nickel, it is worth only one cent; if of 1858, and made of pure copper, it is worth 5 cents. It shows a flying eagle on the obverse, and these are the only years which bore that design.

The other is an Austrian copper coin, but we can not keep the run of foreign coins.

Constant Reader, Varner, Kan.: We are constantly asked for the addresses of coin dealers. One of them has an advertisement elsewhere in this paper—on the 6th page—to which we refer all applicants.

"I have a 25-cent piece dated 1893, on which the mint mark is an S. Where was it minted?"—Max, Pleasant Gap, Mo.

It was coined in San Francisco. The mint mark is always on the reverse of the coin—that is, the side opposite the head, near the bottom.

Nickel and copper coins have no mint marks —only those of gold and silver. The S stands for the San Francisco mint; O, New Orleans; CC, Carson City; and D, Dahlonega, Ga.; C, Charlotte, N. C. Where there is no mint mark the coin was struck at the Philadelphia mint. The O and CC are found only on silver coins; the C and D only on gold coins. These two latter mints have not been in operation since the war.

Classified Civil Service.

J. M., Hiawatha, Kan.: The Indian agents are under civil service rules. For mode of procedure, see below. Address your representative in Congress for information concerning the agency you mention.

R. A. B., Givens, Tenn., and
Edna, Fenton, Mich.: Whenever you wish to apply for an examination for any position in the classified civil service, address a letter to "Hon. John T. Doyle, Secretary of Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C." Tell him for what position you wish to take the examination, and ask for a circular of information, blank application, and when and where the next examination will be held. The circular tells what branches the examination will cover. We can not furnish detailed information of this kind for the different classes of offices, as it would take too much space.

United States Marshals.

R. P. H., Harper's X Roads, N. C.:
J. H., Morgan Springs, Tenn.:
Subscriber, Walnut Cove, N. C.:
C. T. D., Relia, N. C., and
D. W., Grandview, Colo.: The United States marshals are appointed by the President, through the attorney general of the United States. Deputy marshals are appointed by the attorney general, through the marshal. Persons desiring either position should get the active support of their Representative in Congress, if a Republican; or of their Senators, if not Republicans. If these are not Republicans, then the chairman of the state Republican committee, and of the Republican Representatives, if any, from their state in Congress. Besides, they should get petitions for their appointment, signed by the chairmen and members of the Republican county committees of the judicial district, and by prominent Republicans of the entire state. These positions are not under civil service rules.

The "Blue Book."

W. A. S., Brazil, Tenn., and
J. B. H., Westboro, Mo.: The publication you refer to is called "The Official Register of the United States." It contains the name of every person holding a position under the government, with salary, etc. It is commonly called the "Blue Book," because it is bound in deep blue calf. It is two immense volumes, the first of over 1,000 pages, the second of 1,580 pages. It is published by the United States government.

Each Senator and Representative has a limited number given for distribution. The Representative in Congress from your district is the proper person to apply to. In case he can not furnish the work, address a letter of inquiry to the "Public Printer, Washington, D. C.," asking whether any are for sale, and the price.

No Civil Service Postoffices.

F. A. D., Canobie Lake, N. H.:
A. B. C., Indiana, and
J. W. H., Denton, Mich.: No postoffices of any kind have as yet been placed under civil service rules. There was some gossip in Washington to the effect that Cleveland was considering the propriety of putting the 66,000 fourth-class offices under civil service rules; but if he ever considered it he did not do it. If it were done, the same postmaster would hold office continuously until he died, or resigned it, or was removed for incompetency or some other good cause.

Fourth-class Postoffices.

M., Bonito, Tex.: The fourth-class postmasters are all appointed by the fourth assistant postmaster general. The President has, of course, no time to attend to these appointments, as there are so many thousands of them; and the law vests the appointment in the postoffice department. The proper thing for any Republican to do at the present time, who desires such an office, is to draw up a petition to the fourth assistant postmaster general asking his appointment to that place, and then get it signed by as many as possible of the voters who receive their mail at that office, especially of business men, whose mail is larger than that of private individuals. Get up testimonials from leading citizens, from the chairman of the Republican county committee, and of the state committee, if possible, all certifying to your fitness, your capacity, and your standing as an honorable citizen. Get the indorsement of your Representative or your Senators in Congress, if they are Republicans; if not, of the state republican committee.

Crow Creek Reservation.

"Peaches," Bostonia, Cala., has our thanks for the following:

"In the Weekly Blade of Jan. 28, H. C., Kenesaw, Neb., asks for particulars concerning the reservation opened to settlement by President Arthur, and the 'attempt' made to drive the settlers off by the Cleveland administration. I thought some of the parties who were concerned in the case, would reply, but not seeing any reply, will say: It was the Crow Creek reservation in Dakota, between Pierre and Chamberlain, east of the Missouri river; the settlers were driven off their claims by order of the Cleveland administration. If H. C. will write to the editor of the Pierre Signal, he can probably obtain full particulars of the case. Hon J. M. King, of St. Lawrence, South Dakota, could give all the information wanted."

Alcoholic Liquors.

G. A. C., Hayesville, Iowa: The figures of the consumption of spirits, malt liquors and wines in the United States for the two years about which you inquire were:

Fiscal year ended June 30, 1880:

	Gallons.
Fruit spirits, domestic	1,005,781
All other spirits, domestic	61,126,634
Imported spirits	1,204,270
Domestic wines	23,298,940
Imported wines	5,030,601
Domestic malt liquors	413,208,885
Imported malt liquors	1,011,280
Total consumption	506,076,400

Fiscal year ended June 30, 1893:

	Gallons.
Fruit spirits, domestic	1,687,541
Other spirits, domestic	98,202,760
Imported spirits	1,707,422
Domestic wines	26,391,235
Imported wines	5,590,784
Domestic malt liquors	1,071,188,827
Imported malt liquors	8,362,369
Total consumption	1,207,731,908

Engagement Rings.

J. A. F., Denver, Ill.: The present fashion is to use a diamond for an engagement ring, but any kind of a jeweled ring may be used. The fashion dates back through the centuries to the Romans, who used rings in making agreements, etc. The ring is given at betrothal as a pledge of the engagement. The wedding ring has the same origin.

Harnessing Niagara.

E. R., Brandon, Wis.: The harnessing of Niagara has been accomplished in this way: A huge tunnel was driven through the solid rock, just above the level of the water below the falls, opening at its lower end into the gorge some distance below the falls. At some distance above the falls a wide canal or raceway was dug, along a line parallel with the underground tunnel. At different points along this canal the factories or plants to utilize the power are built. Under each of these is a vertical pit, which goes down through the rock to the underground tunnel. In these pits, near the bottom, are placed immense turbine water wheels, each of 5,000 horsepower. The water is led to each turbine by a huge steel tube, which takes the water from the canal. The water passes through the wheels, and then escapes through the tunnel. Only a very small proportion of the water of the Niagara river is thus used. The first plant to be operated was an immense electric one. The electricity thus generated is conducted to Buffalo, 24 miles, where it is used in propelling the street cars, etc.

John Brown's Family.

Horatio N. Rust, South Pasadena, Cal., sends the following correction: "I notice that you publish a statement saying that the people of California have presented Mrs. Annie Brown Adams (daughter of Capt. John Brown) with a purse of $3,000, which is an unfortunate mistake, being published at this time, when I have publicly asked for help for her; you will readily see that its effect will be to deter people from giving who would otherwise have contributed. Will you please correct the mistake, and say that only very small contributions have been received up to this date; that a $500 mortgage rests upon the family home, and help is much needed? By so doing you may help her and correct a wrong impression. As an old-time friend of Captain Brown and the family, I have presented the need to the generous public, and all amounts have been duly acknowledged and gratefully received."

The Deepest Well.

"Please state, if possible, the depth of the deepest well ever drilled for any purpose in this or any other country."—C. M., Perry, Pa.

Who can answer this question? We know of no publication which keeps the record of the deepest wells, the tallest buildings, the largest farms, and things of that sort.

Our Railroads.

F. A. B., Fayetteville, Ark.: The number of miles of railroad in the United States in 1896 was 179,821 miles, with 55,209 miles of sidings in addition. The total number of men employed, in all capacities, was 785,031. The total cost of operating for that year was $769,943,151. The cost of the railroads and equipments, including rolling stock, $9,861,102,943.

The War Debt.

F. E. W., Great Falls, Mont.: The war debt of the United States embraces the bonds now outstanding which were issued to take up bonds originally issued to carry on the war, and the greenbacks. Taking the debt statement of March 1, 1897—the last one issued by the Treasury department—and we find the "war debt" to stand as follows:

Funded loan of 1891	$ 25,364,500
Funded loan of 1907	559,639,600
Greenbacks	346,681,016
Total war debt	$931,685,116

There are other items of debt, but this is all that can be included under the "war debt."

"Their Majorities."

"In Question Bureau of Weekly Blade of March 11, in your answer on Presidential Majorities a blunder was made, which deserves correction, viz.: The types say 'Cleveland's majority over all, in 1892, was 380,810.' The figures given make that the figure of Cleveland's plurality over Harrison."—F., Parma, Mich.

Many thanks for the correction. We repeat the official figures, to correct in full:

Cleveland	5,556,918
Harrison	5,176,108
Weaver	1,041,028
Bidwell	264,133
Wing	21,161
The vote in 1896 was:	
McKinley	7,106,199
Bryan	6,502,785
Palmer	132,871
Levering	131,757
Bentley	13,873
Matchett	36,258

The combined vote of Harrison, Weaver, Bidwell and Wing in 1892 was 6,502,430, which left Cleveland 945,512 votes in the minority. He had a plurality of 380,810 over Harrison, but no majority. McKinley's majority over all in 1896 was 288,753.

Residents of Washington.

W. F. H., Frances, Ky.: The voters in the District of Columbia, and the voters in the Territories, do not vote for Presidential electors nor for Representatives in Congress. The reason is, the constitution only gives the privilege of choosing Representatives and Presidential electors to states; and the District of Columbia is not a state, nor a part of a state. It is just the same as a Territory.

A Tailor's Goose.

J. E., Winchester, Ill.: The large and heavy smoothing iron used by tailors is called a goose, because its handle is in the shape of a gooseneck. When we speak of more than one, we should say tailor's "gooses."

Quotations in the Bible.

"Please state in the Question Bureau why quotation marks are not used in the Bible, and oblige an old subscriber."—J. M. H., Myers, Tenn.:

Because, at the time the King James version of the Bible was printed, and before that, quotation marks were not used. They are a later invention. It is absurd that they are not used in editions of the Bible at present.

A Point in Debate.

"Has the chairman of a business meeting, regularly called together for business, where a vote has to be taken on any person, part or thing, and the election results in a tie, the right to cast his ballot in with one side or the other, so as to make a majority? Is it parliamentary or not?"—G. W. C., Mulberry, Ind.

It depends entirely upon the parliamentary rules they are working under. If the chairman is one of their number, selected as they are, and chosen chairman by themselves, he always has a right to vote on everything which comes to a vote. If he is not a fellow-member, but holds his position of chairman by virtue of some other place or office, then the rules should specify whether he has the right to vote or not, and if so, under what circumstances.

The common sense view of such a vote as you describe is that a tie can not exist. A motion or resolution or nomination must have a majority to pass; and if it is a tie vote, the motion or resolution is lost, or the nominee is defeated, because he or it did not receive a majority.

"Treasury Whitewash."

G. A. J., North Pleasureville, Ky.: The following is the formula for whitewash sent out by the Lighthouse board of the Treasury department. It can be used on wood, brick or stone, answers nearly as well as oil paint, and is much cheaper:

Slack a half-bushel of quicklime with boiling water, keeping it covered during the process. Strain it, and add one peck of salt, dissolved in warm water; 3 pounds of ground rice, put in boiling water, and mix to a thin paste; ½ pound of Spanish whiting, and ¼ pound of clean glue, dissolved in warm water; mix these well together, and let the mixture stand for several days. Keep the wash thus prepared in a kettle or portable furnace, and, when used, put on as hot as possible.

The "Kitchen Cabinet."

E. K., Ayers, Ill.: The term "Kitchen Cabinet" was applied to a circle of intimate friends of President Andrew Jackson, who were said by his political opponents to have more influence with the President than his official cabinet. The term has since been applied to personal friends of various Presidents.

Inauguration Balls.

"Are the inauguration balls supported by individuals or by the government?"—J. H., Jonesboro, Ind.

All the expenses of the inauguration ball are borne by private individuals. All who attended the ball purchased tickets (except the President and invited guests), and the sum thus received paid all the expenses, and left about $12,000 surplus, which will be donated for charitable purposes. None of these balls have ever cost the government one penny.

Two Presidents.

J. O. M., Point Clear, Ala.: The President of Honduras is Polycarpo Bonilla, and of Nicaragua Gen. Jose Santos Zelayo.

Miscellaneous.

S. H., Equinunk, Pa.: Gulteau claimed to be a Republican.

M. P., Carpentersville, Ill.: We do not recall any such utterance by Gladstone.

L. F. L., Urbana, Mo.: We do not know. Address the "Secretary of the Interior, Washington."

A. J. R., Titusville, Pa.: Address the "Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.," for information.

J. F., Teegarden, Ind.: No, the Treasury would not be compelled to give you a gold dollar for a silver dollar.

R. C. B., Kellogg, Iowa: The mayor of New York City receives $10,000 a year, and the mayor of Chicago $7,000.

J. A. G., Zanesville, O.: Sorry to say we do not know. Write to your Representative in Congress, and have him ascertain.

H. I. I., Decorah, Ia., asks for a formula for making phosphate baking powder. Who can send us a formula which has been tried and found satisfactory?

C. D. S., Ripon, Wis.: Get the ticket agent of some railway in your town to inquire, or to give you the address of the general passenger agent of some California line, to whom you can write for information.

S. A. V., Buda, Ill.: Any school text-book on civil government, or any large history of the United States, will give you the old Articles of Confederation. Such things take too much space for us, and are not of general interest.

Subscriber, Effingham, Ill.: The name "Uncle Sam," applied to the United States, was from "Uncle Sam" Wilson, an army contractor in the war of 1812; but the cartoon representation of Uncle Sam was not drawn from Mr. Wilson's personal appearance.

C. U. P., Rich Valley, Ind.: There were no bonds issued during Cleveland's first term. He did not leave as much money in the treasury on March 4 as there was when he was inaugurated in 1885. Harrison had no bonds printed before he left the office.

L. R. C., Oakdale, Cal.: We do not know of any ice machine for family use. Such machinery is expensive, as it requires a steam engine to compress ammonia gas into a liquid. This liquid, in expanding into gas again, causes intense cold, freezing water into ice. This compression can not be done by hand power.

Free.—A Wonderful Shrub.—Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc.

New evidence shows that Alkavis, the new botanical product of the Kava-Kava Shrub, is indeed a true specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disorders of the Kidneys and urinary organs. A remarkable case is that of Rev. A. C. Darling, of North Constantia, N. Y., as told in the New York World of recent date. He was cured by Alkavis, after, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing to die. Similar testimony of extraordinary cures of Kidney and Bladder diseases of long standing comes from many other sufferers, and 1,200 hospital cures have been recorded in 30 days. Up to this time the Church Kidney Cure Co., No. 418 Fourth avenue, New York, are the only importers of Alkavis, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis, prepaid by mail, to every reader of The Blade who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder Disorder, Bright's disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

FANCY GINGHAMS.

Lovely Little Dresses for Young Girls to Wear This Spring and Summer.

The new ginghams are exquisite with their lace and satin stripes. The stripes are in white, and the gingham in a lovely tint of one of the new shades.

The prettiest gingham is a light shade of forget-me-nots blue, alternating with

LATE STRIPED GINGHAMS.

imitation valenciennes lace. For a girl of 12 it is made with plain skirts, being rather full at the back.

Lovely little shirt waists of different colored mull can be worn with the skirt. All colors look pretty, but white is the neatest. The only trimming needed for the shirt waist is a row of the finest white pearl buttons that fasten it in the middle of a box-plait.

Over the shirt waist a lovely little bolero can be worn with a great ruffle at the shoulder. The bolero is three-storied. The second story is of white embroidery, under which there is a third bolero of the gingham. The sleeves are very long and snug fitting.

Both collar and sash are of blue and white striped ribbon with immense loops and ends; the bow upon the collar hooks on, so that one ribbon bow can be worn with a great many fresh ribbon collars. A blue and white striped bow upon a white ribbon collar is very pretty. Black shoes and stockings are the distinguishing French key-note of this neat little outfit.

A MISAPPREHENSION.

A Prisoner at the Bar Says Something That Costs Him $50 Extra.

"Behind the bench on which sat the majesty of the law in the person of a police judge, blind-folded Justice stood, frowning and severe, looking down upon the pigmies of the court-room."

In this grandiloquent manner spoke a Boston drummer, who was telling a story of an experience of his in a Cincinnati police court, though just why the drummer should have been in the police court so early in the morning he did not say, says the Washington Star.

"The prisoner, with bowed head and dejected mien," he proceeded, "awaited the pleasure and the pain of the solemn tribunal before which he was arraigned.

"'Have you anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon you?' said the judge, in deeply impressive tones.

"The prisoner looked helplessly up at the exalted dignitary on the bench, turned his eyes a moment upon the sightless orbs of justice and gulped as if swallowing what little hope was left.

"'Yeronner,' he said, with a trembling voice, 'I did have 75 cents, but the lawyers swiped it.'

"At first what the prisoner had said did not appear to strike the judge, then all at once he fiercely caught the desk in front of him and glowered upon the helpless victim of judicial wrath.

"'Sixty days!' he thundered, 'and $50 extra for contempt of court,' and the prisoner bowed his head as a tree in the blast, and tottered down the iron steps to the cell-room below."

Impure

Blood is the prime cause of most of our bodily ills, but it is often difficult to convince people their blood is impure, until dreadful carbuncles, abscesses, boils, scrofula or salt rheum, are painful proof of the fact. It is wisdom now, or whenever there is any indication of impure blood, to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and prevent such eruptions and suffering.

"I had a dreadful carbuncle abscess, red, fiery, fierce and sore. The doctor attended me over seven weeks. When the abscess broke the pains were terrible, and I thought I should not live through it. I heard and read so much about Hood's Sarsaparilla that I decided to take it, and my husband, who was suffering with boils, took it also. Hood's Sarsaparilla purified our blood, built me up and restored my health so that, although the doctor said I would not be able to work hard, I have since done the work for 20 people. Hood's Sarsaparilla cured my husband of the boils, and we regard it a wonderful medicine." MRS. ANNA PETERSON, Latimer, Kansas.

Blood

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. $1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

M'KINLEY'S SAYINGS.

However much or little truth there may be in the remark that Presidential inaugural addresses usually consist chiefly of platitudes and generalities, the address of President McKinley is not open to the charge. It is simple and direct in style, earnest in tone, candid in discussion, and full of sentences that go straight to one mark or another in the various phases of our national affairs. There is not the slightest affectation in McKinley's style. There is no beating about the bush, yet there is no offensive dogmatism. There is abundant evidence of sincerity, precision of thought and broad patriotism. McKinley, in fact, has taken his place among phrasemakers, by which is meant those who say what they have to say tersely and strongly. Here are a few samples:

The best way for the government to maintain its credit is to pay as it goes.

The restoration of confidence and the revival of business, which men of all parties so much desire, depend more largely upon the prompt, energetic and intelligent action of Congress than upon any other single agency affecting the situation.

Arbitration is the true method of settlement of international as well as local or individual differences.

There could be no better time to put the government upon a sound financial and economic basis than now.

The paramount duty of Congress is to stop deficiencies by the restoration of that protective legislation which has always been the firmest prop of the treasury.

Congress should give prompt attention to the restoration of our American merchant marine, once the pride of the seas in all the great ocean highways of commerce.

Our money is all good now, but its value must not further be threatened. It should all be put upon an enduring basis, not subject to easy attack, nor its stability to doubt or dispute.

Reforms in the civil service must go on. But the changes should be real and genuine, not perfunctory or prompted by a zeal in behalf of any party, simply because it happens to be in power.

The credit of the government, the integrity of its currency, and the inviolability of its obligations must be preserved. This was the commanding verdict of the people and it will not be unheeded.

The preservation of public order, the right of discussion, the integrity of our courts, and the orderly administration of justice must continue forever the rock of safety upon which our government securely rests.

There is geniality as well as convincing strength in these sentences; and while everybody does not agree with McKinley on certain points of economic policy, all are favorably impressed by his earnestness and happy style of promulgating his beliefs, and all cordially concede that he goes into the Presidential office with a generous equipment of ability and patriotism, and with the capacity and purpose to serve the country well.

BRILLIANTE.

All the water in the ocean
Can never turn the swan's black legs to white.
—Shakespeare.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee!
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.
—Henry Frances Lyte.

Men
Can counsel and speak comfort to that grief
Which they themselves not feel; but, tasting it,
Their counsel turns to passion.
—Shakespeare.

Thou thinkest I shall die to-day;
I have been dead till now,
And soon shall live and wear a crown
For aye upon my brow!
—Chatterton.

Still on the lips of all we question
The finger of God's silence lies;
Will the lost hands e'ours be folded?
Will the shut eyelids ever rise?
O friend! no proof beyond this yearning,
This outreach of our hearts, we need;
God will not mock the hope he giveth,
No love he prompts shall vainly plead.
—J. G. Whittier.

Hearts plighted in youth to the royal
High service of hope and of song,
Sealed fast for endurance as loyal,
And proved of the years as they throng,
Conceive not, believe not and fear not
That age may be other than youth;
That faith and that friendship may hear not
And utter not truth.
—Swinburne.

B a clear well within a little field
Full of green grass and flowers of every hue,
Sat three young girls, relating (as I knew)
Their loves. And each had twined a bough to shield
Her lovely face; and the green leaves did yield
The golden hair their shadow; while the two
Sweet colors mingled, both blown lightly through
With a soft wind forever stirred and stilled,
After a little while one of them said
(I heard her), "Think! if ere the next hour struck,
Each of our lovers should come here to-day,
Think you that we should fly or feel afraid?"
To whom the others answered, "From such luck
A girl would be a fool to run away."
Translated by Rosetti.
—Boccaccio.

NO MATCH FOR THE MAJOR.

McKinley Gets Quietly On the Ripe Reporter's Weather Gauge.

President McKinley is a man of admirable tact, says the Indianapolis Journal. In this respect he is a good deal like Garfield, but even Garfield stumbled occasionally. McKinley improves upon Garfield's methods. There isn't so much of the effusive about him, not so much of the arm-around-your-neck style, but he leaves fully as good an impression. But Garfield and McKinley would fast a week rather than have a caller leave them in anger. It was a kind of religion with them to make friends out of every sort of material.

While the major was in town on his recent visit one of the reporters of a local daily called upon him for an interview. He was pleasantly received, and had the distinguished victim quite to himself. The major was as pleasant as the typical basket of chips, and the interviewer foraged in great style. At last, exhilarated by his success and lured on by the Major's open manner, the reporter hurled this question square at the mark:

"Major," he said, "this may be a rather blunt query, but have you decided yet on any single member of your cabinet?"

The major was smoking when this center shot struck him. He didn't wince. He didn't flutter an eyelid. He leaned back and slowly puffed the cigar, looking off into illimitable space. His face was calm and inscrutable.

A brief silence ensued.

Then the major leaned forward. He drew his bushy eyebrows down and looked almost eagerly at the waiting reporter.

"I'll tell you how it is," he slowly said; "this weather is certainly very remarkable for this time of year."

Then he leaned back again and let a little curl of smoke circle above his head.

The reporter stared hard at him. Then he smiled.

"Well let it drop, major," he said.

Then the major faintly smiled, too, and the conversation went right on again from where the leading question had derailed it.

—That Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood and relieves a vast amount of suffering is not a theory but a well known fact.

A Hypnotist.

Yeast—"Do you believe there is such a thing as a hypnotist?"

Crimsonbeak—"What's that?"

"Why a person who can make you do something which you don't want to do."

"Oh, yes; my wife's one. She makes me bring up the coal every night."—Yonkers Statesman.

So Sad.

A man who had tastes anthropophagous
Expired of a severed esophagus;
They laid him away
Under six feet of clay
In a hieroglyphicked sarcophagus.
—Harper's Bazar.

After a Trip to London.

Archie—Weel, Sandy, an' hoo did ye pass the time in Lunnon?

Sandy—Richt brawly, mon. An' forbye, when I'd clappit a stovepipe on my head and put on a frockit coat, 'deed, Archie, if there was a soubiron but didn't take me for a cockney born and bred.—Exchange.

O.I.C. Swine On Time TO FIRST APPLICANT IN EACH LOCALITY L.B. Silver Co. Cleveland, O.

A young woman about to be presented at court receives the fullest instructions as to her behavior. She is told how to dress; how to manage her train; how to courtesy correctly. Every incident is carefully rehearsed so that she may commit no blunder in the presence of royalty. If all this trouble is worth while for the satisfaction of one brief moment, how infinitely more important it is that a young girl about to enter into the sacred precincts of womanhood, should be properly instructed in all that concerns a life-time of possible happiness, or possible misery.

Every mother ought to see to it that her daughters are healthy and strong in a womanly way. She ought to make them aware that any neglect or irregularity of the special functions of womanhood may result in life-long weakness and disease.

Any mother or daughter may write confiding physician in the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. Her letter will be answered free of charge with suggestions for self-treatment at home, by which these complaints may be overcome without need of mortifying examinations.

Dr. Pierce has had over thirty years' experience in the treatment of women's diseases, and is an eminent specialist in this particular field of practice. His "Favorite Prescription" cures completely and permanently the most obstinate cases of feminine weakness and disease. It heals all inflamed conditions, strengthens and tones the nerve centres and the entire womanly organism.

For prospective mothers and nursing mothers, the "Favorite Prescription" is a perfect strength sustainer.

DRESS OF ENGLISH SUITING

Something to Wear When the Wind is Blowing a Gale and One Must Go Out to Walk.

The English, who have plenty of rough weather, named a suiting after themselves, which is the ideal dress goods for sharp gales.

Such a dress is warm, and, though it is not as heavy in texture as other outdoor materials holds its own remarkably well.

A woman who enjoys tramping in the suburbs of the city has selected an English suiting of brown and blue pin stripes upon a gray field. She has had it made

FOR A MARCH GALE.

upon the bell pattern of five years ago, that everybody liked so well.

The skirt is one of the new trimmed skirts; it has a broad panel of black cloth down the front and similar panels, though narrower, at the sides. Around the bottom of the skirt there is a figure in black cloth.

It might be said about the application of these cloth panels that they are put upon the dress with invisible stitch, and are designed evidently to look like the imported pattern gowns. They are pretty and can be gotten up at a much lower price.

COMFORT AND KNOWLEDGE

(Sent free by mail.)

Set aside for twenty-four hours a bottle or common glass filled with urine. A sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is positive evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back, is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. You may have a sample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail. Mention the Toledo Weekly Blade, and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

FOR WOMEN TO KNOW.

Remember that nothing spoils a woman's appearance so much as a worn-out skirt binding. See to yours if necessary.

Remember because a thing is low-priced it doesn't always follow it is a bargain. Be sure you get your money's worth, and don't emulate Mrs. Toodles.

Remember if you want the "silken rustle" so dear to a woman's heart to have your gown lined with the best quality of silk. Second grade silk will not "sing."

Remember all stocks in the latest style have a cravat bow (that is, two loops and a knot straight across) directly in front. Bear this in mind when putting on your ribbon stock hereafter.

Remember disheveled hair does not give the effect of straw above locks. Some women striving to get this appearance only succeed in making their coiffure untidy and so spoil the whole effect of their appearance.

Remember if you have been out in the rain or damp with a hat trimmed with ostrich feathers or with a boa or a gown finished with this trimming, you should put it in front of your register and let the warm air blow on it until it is perfectly dry. This will materially aid in keeping it in good condition. When the curl has gone from ostrich feathers the beauty is gone. A little care pays.—Philadelphia Record.

All men should read Thos. Slater's offer on page 4.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Planting Apple Seed.

L. H., Iowa: Apple seed may be planted three or four inches apart, in rows, and when they come up they should be planted out in the nursery. The methods pursued by nurserymen are to propagate by layers and many sorts by cutting and budding; but the usual method is by grafting on seedling stocks of two or three years' growth. This you should do, if you wish a certain variety of fruit, and in this case, which is the right one, you should keep the trees in the nursery until large enough to graft. If seed is planted in the nursery, the trees may be weeded out so that they will be a proper distance from each other to permit of plenty of light and sunshine. The seeds may be planted in wide boxes in winter and set out in the spring. The boxes should be set where there is a fair degree of warmth.

Diarrhoea and Piles in Fowls.

Mrs. A. L., Missouri: Diarrhoea frequently occurs from lack of variety of food, damp quarters or insufficiency of grit. Your fowls are suffering from roup, as is indicated by the swelling of their heads. Remove the sick from the well fowls, and place them in warm quarters, free from draughts of air. Give each fowl a dessertspoonful of caster oil. Afterward feed for a few days boiled bran and ground oats in the morning, in which there is stirred a little cayenne pepper to make it fairly warm to the taste. Chip an onion in it; also a little boiled beef. This mixture must be made so that it will not be sloppy; but will crumble when pinched with the hand. Warm wheat or corn will do for an evening feed. Give a variety of food—plenty of green grass, if you can get it. The coop must be thoroughly cleaned, or all your fowls may get the disease. Take a sewing machine can and squirt a drop or two of kerosene into the nostrils of the sick fowls.

Teosinte—Alfalfa—Sacaline.

H. C., Ohio:—Euchlaena, or teosinte, is allied to and somewhat resembles Indian corn. Like it, it has the male flowers in a tassel at the top of the stalk, and the fertile ones arranged in slender spikes mostly concealed from view by the loose husk in which they are contained. These husks come from nearly every point. It is a semi-tropical forage plant, and was distributed from the U. S. Agricultural Department first in 1886, and again in 1887. It does not withstand drought as well as Kaffir corn or milo maize. It requires a rich soil in which it makes wonderful growth. It will grow to the height of 8 to 10 feet. If mowed down it will grow again several feet within a few days. Cattle like it both green and dry. There is not a more prolific forage plant grown. It is easily dried, and is considered one of the best forage plants of the United States, and requires about the same treatment as corn. It will not mature in Ohio. Alfalfa, or Lucerne, is less hardy than red clover and is adapted to a milder climate. It flourishes in Southern California and Southern states east of the Mississippi. It has stood the winter as far North as Vermont, New York and Michigan, but a cold of 25 degrees will kill the tops. In Northern sections it has given a much less yield than at the South, and has but little advantage over red clover, although Alfalfa, in fact, is not a clover. It is well adapted to a dry climate, and endures drought better than clover. It improves the fertility of the soil, but must have a rich soil to start in. It prefers sandy soils, if fertile. It usually thrives best on rich bottom lands. It will not do well on land that holds water. In the right kind of soil its roots will penetrate to the depth of 12 to 20 feet. It is a valuable forage plant for soiling. In Northern states, May is the best time to sow. Sow 15 to 20 pounds per acre. It does best when drilled in—the drills 12 to 18 inches apart. In the South it is a favorite on account of its large yield and perennial character. It may be cut repeatedly during the season. Four times is not too much. It is relished by all kinds of stock. It must not be fed while wet to cattle, or it may cause hoven or bloat. In pasturing, cattle should not be permitted to graze on it more than 20 minutes at a time for a few days, and they should not be put on it when it is wet or rank. It does not stand grazing as well as the ordinary grasses or clover. It requires care to dry it. It should be cut before the stalks become woody. Sacaline has been roundly condemned by some people. You are advised to go slow with it. Try a little, and you may like it, but you will do well to try it first on a small scale.

Land for Cranberry Raising.

H. G. S., Michigan:—An alluvial formation is the best adapted to cranberry culture. On some soils they will not grow. Alluvial soil may be the most barren or the most fertile, it will produce cranberries. The best soil is an equal mixture of coarse sand and muck. If a swamp be selected, the soil should be drained, to prevent flooding after rains. All rushes should be removed. The turf and surface roots should be separated from the soil beneath. When muck is six or eight feet deep, put sand on the surface to the depth of six inches. In hill planting, the ground is marked out in 6 feet apart each way, a handful of vines planted at each intersection. In drill planting strike out the ground with a plow in rows three feet apart and scatter the vines thinly but evenly along the furrow. For two years keep the vines free from grass. The third winter the vines should be flooded. When the vines assume a dull red appearance in the fall, they may be flooded. Keep the water on until May 1. There should be a dam built to hold water until needed. The editor does not know of any cranberry grower. Perhaps you could get vines at Holland, Mich., by writing to the postmaster for information. It is said nice cranberries are raised in the vicinity of Holland. If any grower will send his address to The Blade Farmstead it will be forwarded to you.

Mammitis in Cow.

W. H. G., Wisconsin:—The formula for salve for the trouble with your cow's udder should have read: Spirits of camphor, ½ oz.; extract of belladonna, 2 drachms; lard, 2 ozs. Your druggist was right in detecting the error. Errors will occur in a newspaper, no matter how much care is taken. The editor, however, finds that in one of the leading works on veterinary science, the author recommends 2 ozs. extract belladonna to 2 ozs. lard, but this is too much. Dr. Law in his Veterinary Adviser, speaking of belladonna (not extract) gives proportions for animals, to be taken as follows: Belladonna, anodyne, antispasmodic, narcotic—horse, 2 ozs.; ox, 2 ozs.; ass, 1 to 2 ozs.; sheep, ½ oz.; dog, 5 grains.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Mole Question.

Editor Blade Farmstead:—I for one do not want to see the mole question dropped until some one gives us a plan to get rid of these pests that can be put into practice on a large field as well as a lawn. I have tried the following plans and have failed as yet to catch a single mole: Setting small fish-hooks in runways; poison; boring deep holes with post augur; board with spikes in it set with figure four; and still they increase with alarming rapidity.

I understand that in England they are such a pest that there are professional mole catchers who trap them in some way. Surely there is some one in the great Blade family who can help us to get rid of this serious pest.—J. W. B., Bedford, Iowa.

Fruit Note No. 2, 1897—Strawberries.

Editor Blade Farmstead:—Strawberries are our first fruit in ripening in quick returns for our expenditure of time and money and perhaps first in favor.

The acreage planted and amount used is annually on the increase and yet there are very many homes that scarcely sample the luxury. This is especially true among the farmers and small gardeners, yet I believe a bushel of strawberries can be raised as easily as a bushel of potatoes. I do not mean that they can be put on the market as cheaply, but can be raised, ripened, as easily. Then there are always lots of willing hands to harvest them for home use.

It takes a little more attention to raise them than cor

Talmage's Sermon.

THE LAST CONFLICT.

"In the Name of God We Will Set Up Our Banners."

Washington, March 15.—At this time, when our national capital has for ten days been ablaze with our national flag, the imagery of this sermon of Dr. Talmage seems very vivid and appropriate. The text is Psalms xx 5: In the name of God we will set up our banners.

I hate war. In our boyhood we may have read the biography of Alexander or of some revolutionary hero until our young heart beat high and we wished we had been born over a hundred years ago, just for the glory of striking down a Russian. For rusty swords hung up on the rafters and bullets cut out of log houses in which they were logged during the admiration, or on some public day, clothed in our grandfather's soldierly accoutrements, we felt as brave as Garibaldi or Napoleon.

We are wiser now, for we make a vast distinction between the poetry and the prose of war. The roll of drums and the call of bugles, and the champing of steeds foaming and pawing for the battle; a hundred thousand muskets glittering among the dancing plumes; "God Save the King" waving up from clarionets and trumpets and rung back from deep defiles or the arches of a prostrate city; distant capitals of kingdoms illuminated at the tidings, generals returning home under flaming arches and showering amaranths and the shout of empires—that is poetry. Chilled and half-blanketed, lying on the wet earth; feet sore with the march and bleeding at the slightest touch; hunger pulling on every fiber of flesh or attempting to satisfy itself with a scanty and spoiled ration; thirst licking up the dew or drinking out of filthy and trampled pool; thoughts of home and kindred far away while just on the eve of a deadly strife, where death may leap on him from any one of a hundred bayonets; the closing of two armies, now changed to a hundred thousand maniacs; the ground slippery with blood and shattered flesh; fallen ones writhing under hoofs of unbridled chargers maddened with pain; the dreadfulness of night that comes down when the strife is over; the struggle of the wounded ones crawling out over the corpses; the long, feverish agony of the crowded barrack and hospital, from whose mattresses the fragments of men send up their groans, the only music of carnage and butchery; desolate homes from which fathers and husbands and brothers and sons went off; without giving any dying message or sending a kiss to the dear ones at home, tumbled into the soldiers' grave trench, and houses in which a few weeks before unbroken family circles rejoiced, now plunged in the great sorrows of widowhood and orphanage—that is prose.

But there is now on the earth a kingdom which has set itself up for conflicts without number. In its march it tramples no grain fields, it sacks no cities, it impoverishes no treasuries, it fills no hospitals, it bereaves no families. The courage and victory of Solferino and Magenta without carnage. The kingdom of Christ against the kingdom of Satan. That is the strife now raging. We will offer no armistices; we will make no treaty. Until the revolted nations of the earth shall submit again to King Emanuel. "In the name of God we will set up our banners."

Every army has its ensigns. Long before the time when David wrote the text they were in use. The hosts of Israel displayed them. The tribe of Benjamin carried a flag with the inscription of a wolf. The tribe of Dan a representation of cherubim. Judah a lion wrought into the groundwork of white, purple, crimson, and blue. Such flags from their folds shook fire into the hearts of such numbers as were in the field when Abijah fought against Jeboram, and there were twelve hundred thousand soldiers, and more than five hundred thousand were left dead on the field. These ensigns gave heroism to such numbers as were assembled when Asa fought against Zerah, and there were one million five hundred and eighty thousand troops in the battle. The Athenians carried an inscription of the owl, which was their emblem of wisdom. The flags of modern nations are familiar to you all, and many of them so inappropriate for the character of the nations they represent it would be impolitic to enumerate them. These ensigns are streamers borne on the point of a lance and on the top of wooden shafts. They are carried in the front and rear of armies. They unroll from the main-top-gallant-mast-head of an admiral's flagship to distinguish it among other ships of the same squadron. They are the objects of national pride. The loss of them on the field is ignominious.

The three banners of the Lord's hosts are the banner of proclamation, the banner of recruit, and the banner of victory. When a nation feels its rights infringed or its honor insulted, when its citizens have in foreign climes been oppressed and no indemnity has been offered to the inhabitants of the republic or kingdom, a proclamation of war is uttered. On the top of batteries and arsenals and customs houses and revenue offices flags are immediately swung out. All who look upon them realize the fact that uncompromising war is declared. Thus it is that the church of Jesus Christ, jealous for the honor of its sovereign, and determined to get back those who have been carried off captive into the bondage of Satan, and intent upon the destruction of those mighty wrongs which have so long cursed the earth, and bent upon the extension of the Saviour's reign of mercy, in the name of God sets up its banner of proclamation.

The church makes no assault upon the world. I do not believe that God ever made a better world than this. It is magnificent in its ruins. Let us stop talking so much against the world. God pronounced it very good at the beginning. Though a wandering child of God, I see in it yet the Great Father's lineaments. Though tossed and driven by the storms of six thousand years, she sails bravely yet, and as at her launching in the beginning the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy, so at last, when coming into the calm harbor of God's mercy, she shall be greeted by the huzzas of glorified kingdoms. It is not the world against which we contend, but its transgressions. Whatever is obstinate in the will, degrading in passion, harmful in custom, false in friendship, hypocritical in profession—against all this Christ makes onset. From false profession he would tear the mask. From oppression he would snatch the rod. From pride he would rend off the plumes. From revenge he would exercise the devil. While Christ loved the world so much that he died to save it, he hates sin so well that to eradicate the last trace of its pollution he will utterly consume the continents and the oceans.

At the gate of Eden the declaration of perpetual enmity was made against the serpent. The tumult roundabout Mount Sinai was only the roar and flash of God's artillery of wrath against sin. Sodom on fire was only one of God's flaming bulletins and announcing hostility. Nineveh and Tyre and Jerusalem in awful ruin mark the track of Jehovah's advancement. They show that God was terribly in earnest when he announced himself abhorrent of all iniquity. They make us believe that though nations be indigerent and revengeful may sign articles of peace and come to an amicable adjustment, there shall be cessation of hostilities between the forces of light and the forces of darkness until the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord. Affrighted by no opposition, discouraged by no temporary defeats, shrinking from no exposure—every man to his position, while from the top of our schools and churches and seminaries and asylums, "In the name of God we will set up our banners."

Again, it was the custom in ancient times, for the purpose of gathering armies, to lift an ensign on the top of some high hill, so that all who saw it would feel impelled to rally around it. In modern times the same plan has been employed for the gathering of an army. Thus it is that the church of Jesus Christ lifts its flag for recruits. The Cross of Jesus is our standard, planted on the hill of Calvary. Other armies demand that persons desiring to enter the lists of war shall be between such and such an age, lest the folly of extreme youth or the infirmity of advanced age be a clog rather than an advantage. But none are too young for Christ's regiment; none can be too old.

The hand that is strong enough to bound a ball or trundle a hoop is skilled enough to fight for Christ, while many a hand trembling with old age has grasped the arrow of truth, and, with a dim eye close to it, taking aim, has sent its sharp point right through the heart of the king's enemies. Many of you have long ago had your names written on the roll of celestial troops and you like the service well, although you now bear the scars of multitudinous conflicts and can recount many a long march, and tell of siege guns opened on you that you thought never could be spiked. But there may be some who have not yet enlisted. Your being here implies that you are seriously thinking about it, and your attention makes me hope you are only looking for the standard to be hoisted. Will you not, a hundred of you, with all the aroused patriotism of your nature, come bounding into the ranks while "In the name of God we set up our banners?"

Through natural modesty do you hold back and say, "I will be of no advantage to Christ; I am too awkward to learn the step of the host, or to be of any service in the shock of battle?" To you I make the reply, Try it. One hour under Christ's drill and you would so well understand his rules that the first step of your march heavenward would make the gates of hell tremble on their hinges. We may not be as polished and trim as many Christians we have known, and we may not as well understand sharpshooting, but there is rough work which we can all accomplish. We may be axmen, and hew a pathway through the forests. We may be spadesmen, and dig the trenches and throw up the fortifications. We do not care where, we do not care what—if we can only help in the cause of our King and shout as loudly as any of them at the completion of the conquest.

There are non-professors who have a very correct idea of what Christians ought to be. You have seen members of the church who were as proud as Ahab and lied as badly as Ananias, and who were as foul as Judas. You abhor all that. You say followers of Christ ought to be honorable, humble and self-denying. Amen! So they ought. Come into the kingdom of Christ, my hearer, and be just that glorious Christian that you have described. Every church has enough stingy men in it to arrest its charities, and enough proud men in it to grieve away the Holy Ghost, and enough lazy men in it to hang on behind till its wheels, like Pharaoh's chariots, drag heavily, and enough worldly men to exhaust the patience of the very elect, and enough snarly men to make appropriate the Bible warning, "Beware of dogs." If any of you men on the outside of the kingdom expect to make such Christians as that, we do not want you to come, for the church has already a million members too many of just that kind. We do not want our ranks crowded with serfs when we can have them filled with zouaves.

There are men now, as in Christ's time, possessed of seven devils. In some instances it seems as though at conversion only six of those evil spirits were cast out, while there remains still one in the heart, the devil of avarice, the devil of lust, or the devil of pride. Men of the world, if you would be transformed and elevated by the power of the gospel, now is the time to come. It is no mean ensign I lift this hour. It is a time-honored flag. It has been in terrific battle. Draggled in the dust of a Saviour's humiliation from Bethlehem to Calvary. Rent by hell's onset, the spears of a maddened soldiery, and the hands of the men who said, "Let him be crucified." With this ensign in his bleeding hand the Saviour scaled the heights of our sin. With this he mounted the walls of perdition, and amid its very smoke, and flame, and blasphemy he waved his triumph, while demons howled with defeat, and heaven

Thronged his chariot wheels
And bore him to his throne;
Then swept their golden harps and sung,
The glorious work is done.

Again, when a grand victory has been won, it is customary to announce it by flags floating from public buildings and from trees and from the masts of ships. They are the signals for eulogy and rejoicing and festivity. So the ensign which the church hoists is a banner of victory. There was a time when the religion of Christ was not considered respectable. Men of learning and position frowned upon it. Governments anathematized its supporters. To be a Christian was to be an underling. But mark the difference. Religion has compelled the world's respect. Infidelity, in the tremendous effort it has made to crush it, has complimented its power. And there is not now a single civilized nation but in its constitution, or laws, or proclamations pays homage to the religion of the cross.

In the war in India, when Sir Archibald Campbell found in an hour of danger that the men he ordered to the field were intoxicated, and asked for the pious men whom the Christian Henry had under his management, he said: "Call out Havelock's saints; they are never drunk, and Havelock is always ready." That Christianity which gathered its first troophies from the fishermen's huts on the shore of Galilee, now has Samson-like strength thrown upon its shoulders and has carried off the gates of science and worldly power. We point not to fortresses and standing armies and navies as the evidence of the church's progress. We point to the men whom Christ has redeemed by his blood. What if arsenals and navy-yards do not belong to the church? We do not want them. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but spiritual, and mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. The world and Satan have no idea of the strength and heroism which God will yet let out against the forces of darkness. As yet they have had only one round from the first regiment. The Lord of Hosts will soon appear in the field at the head of his troops. Depend upon it, that when God inspires the soul with a new life he puts in it the principle of "never give up." In all ages of the church there have been those who have had a faith that was almost equal to sight, looking through persecution and reverses with as much expectation as through palpable achievements. There have been men for Christ who have acted as did the favorite troops of Brien, attacked by Fitzpatrick of Ossory. The wounded soldiers begged that they might enter the fight with the others. They said: "Let stakes be stuck in the ground and suffer each of us, tied to and supported by one of these stakes, to battle in the ranks by the side of a sound man." It is said that seven or eight hundred men, pale and emaciated from former wounds, and thus supported by the stakes, struggled through the combat. Thus has it been that multitudes of the children of God, though feeling themselves weak and wounded, perhaps in body, perhaps in estate, perhaps in soul, supported by the staff of God's promise, have warred up to the hilt in the subjugation of a world of wickedness.

We are mighty in this cause, for we have the help of the pious dead. Messengers of salvation from high heaven, they visit the field. They stand behind us to keep us from ignominious retreat. They go before us to encourage us in the strife. The McCheynes and the Paysons, and the Martyns, and the Brainerds, an uncounted multitude of the glorified, are our coadjutors. Have you heard the Swiss tradition? The herdsmen say that three great leaders of the Helvetic nation, though seemingly dead, are only lying down under the ground, in their old-time dress, refreshing themselves with sleep, and that if at any time the liberties of their country are in danger they will immedately spring to their feet and drive back the enemy. May I not have the thought that if ever the church of the blessed Christ shall be threatened with destruction by foes which seem too great for her strength the Lord himself will not only come to the deliverance, but those great ancients who have seemed to be sleeping among the dead shall immediately hear the trumpet blast of the church militant, and full-armed, spring back to their old positions in the ranks of God with the battle cry, "More than conquerors through him that loved us."

Although we have already much to encourage us in the work of the world's evangelization, yet we must confess that much of our time has been consumed in planting batteries and getting ready for the conflict. We have not yet begun to preach. We have not yet begun to pray. We have not yet begun to work. On the coasts of heathendom are missionary stations. They have scarcely yet begun to accomplish what they propose. It takes some time to dig the trenches and elevate the standard and direct the great guns. From what I hear, I think they are about ready now. Let but the Great Captain wave the signal and the ringing of the celestial weaponry shall quake every dungeon of hell and sound up among the thrones of heaven. Pagodas and temples shall tumble under the shock, and besotted nations flying from their idols and superstitions, shouting like the confounded worshipers of Baal, "The Lord, he is the God! The Lord, he is the God!"

We go not alone to the field. We have invincible allies in the dumb elements of nature. As Job said, we are in league with the very stones of the field. The sun by day and the moon by night, directly or indirectly, shall favor Christianity. The stars in their courses are marshaled for us, as they fought against Sisera. The winds of heaven are now as certainly acting in favor of Christ as in reformation times the invincible armada, in its pride, approached the coast of England. As that proud navy directed their guns against the friends of Christ and religious liberty, God said unto his winds: "Seize hold of them," and to the sea: "Swallow them." The Lord with his tempests, dashed their hulks together and splintered them on the rocks until the flower of Spanish prowess and valor lay crushed among the waves of the sea beach. All are ours. Aye! God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost are our allies.

The Mohammedans in their struggle to subjugate the world, had passages from the Koran inscribed on the blades of their scimeters, and we have nothing to fear if, approaching the infidelity and malice of the opposse the kingdom of Christ, we shall have glittering on our swords the words of David to the giant: "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom thou hast defied."

Now the church goes forth bearing precious seed, but after awhile it will be the sheaf-binding, and reaper angels shall shout the harvest home. Now it is tents and marching and exposure, but then in the ranks of prostrate iniquity and on the very walls of heaven, "In the name of God we will set up our banners."

The earth sends up its long, deep groan of pain, and clanks the great chains of its bondage and cries by the voice of sea and land and sky: "How long, O Lord, how long?" There was a tradition on the other side of the water that the daughter of Lir was transformed into a bird of the air, and that she wandered for hundreds of years over river and lake until the arrival of Christianity, and at the stroke of the first cathedral bell her spirit was freed. Uncounted millions of our race, by the power of sin and Satan, transformed into a bird of wretchedness, and they wander like the poor daughter of Lir; but they shall after awhile be released. When the great Church of Christ shall in those darkened lands from its tower ring out the glad tidings of the gospel, then millions of wandering souls shall find rest in a Saviour's pity and a Saviour's love, transported from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

By and by you would hardly know the world if you saw it. The world as a whole shall be as greatly improved as the individual heart by conversion. Fraud, leaving its track, will go to sea for an honest living. Knavery shall begin to make righteous bargains. Passion shall answer to the control of reason. Scoffers shall be changed into worshipers and skeptics into the truest. Christ shall begin his reign on earth. Whether he shall descend onto the earth in person and establish a government at Jerusalem I cannot say; but it will be an era of more than Augustine splendor. That is enough. Knowing this as we can never despair. But as we see the church of Christ putting on her beautiful garments and arising to shine, we will say, with the enthusiasm of Oliver Cromwell's standing orders to his sick and faint-stricken soldiers at Dunbar, saw the sun rising out of the morning mist, and pointing to it with his sword, uttered a prayer which buried the men upon the ground for like a host full of thunderbolts: "Arise, O God! Let thine enemies be scattered."

With the ear of faith I catch the sound of the latter day glory. Church of Christ, unsheath thy sword and this moment to the battle! In the name of Christ march on! Upon every school and hospital, upon every banker's desk and merchant's counter, upon every chemist's laboratory and artizan's tower, upon lawyer's office and woodman's cabin, upon ship's deck and sailor's hammock, far out on the sea and high up in the mountain, before the gaze of nations, under the applaudits of heaven, in the name of God we will set up our banners."

My subject has taught you that in this contest we are not without ensigns and colors. All we want now is men to carry them. Before I sit down I must appeal to each of you this great honor. Becoming a Christian is not so ignoble a thing as many have thought it. "It makes a man stoop," you say. I know it, but it is only the stoop of an heir of royalty who on his knees receives the crown of dominion. We want standard bearers in all pulpits, in all places of business—everywhere. I do not ask you how old you are, nor how young; how weak you are, nor how strong; or how sharp; or what your home, nor who your ancestors. Without any condition, without any reserve, in the name of the God of Israel, I offer you the honor of carrying the church's ensigns. Do not be afraid of the assaults of a world whose ranks you desert, nor of devils who will oppose you with infernal might. It were more blessed to fall here than stand anywhere else. If we are mere men of honor, engaged with Christ, to be trampled under foot with this army of banners, than opposing Christ, to be buried like Edward I in Egyptian porphyry.

You know in ancient times elephants were trained to fight, and that on one occasion, instead of attacking the enemy they turned upon their owners and thousands were crushed under their broken tusks and the mountain weight of their step. These mighty opportunities of work for Christ may accomplish great things in overthrowing the sin of the world and beating to pieces its errors, but if we do not wield with our friends these very advantages will, in unguarded moments, turn terribly upon us and under their heels of vengeance grind us to powder. Rejected blessings are seven-fold curses. We cannot compromise this matter. We cannot stand aside and look on. Christ has declared it: "All who are not with me are against me." Lord Jesus, we surrender.

The prophecies intimate that there shall before the destruction of the world be one great battle between truth and unrighteousness. We shall not probably see it on earth. God grant that we may see it, bending from the battlements of heaven, for on that side of sin shall be arrayed all forms of oppression and cruelty led on by infamous kings and generals. The votaries of Paganism, led on by their priests. The subjects of Mohammedanism, following the oppressive caliphs sheiks. And gluttony and intemperance and iniquity of every phase shall be largely represented on the field. All the wealth and splendor and power and glow of wickedness shall be concentered on that one decisive spot, and maddened by ten thousand previous defeats, shall gather themselves up for one last, terrible assault. With hatred to God for their cause and blasphemy for the battle cry, they spread out over the earth in solid or serried square, and legion beyond legion, while in some overchanging cloud of blackness foul spirits of hell watch this last struggle of sin and darkness for dominion.

Scattered by the blasts of Jehovah's nostrils, plunder, and sin, and Satanic force shall quit the field. As the roar of the conflict sounds through the universe all worlds shall listen. The air shall be full of wings of heaven's cohorts. The work is done, and in the presence of a world reclaimed for the crown of Jesus, and amid the crumbling of tyrannies and the defeat of Satanic force, and amid the sound of heavenly acclamations the church shall rise up in the image of our Lord, and with the crown of victory on her head and the scepter of dominion in her hand in the name of God shall set up her banners. Then Himalaya shall become Mount Zion, and the Pyrenees Moriah and the oceans the walking place of him who trod the wave crests of Galilee, and the great heavens become a sounding board which shall strike back the sound of salvation to the earth till it rebound again to the throne of the Almighty. Angel of the Apocalypse, fly! fly! for who will stand in the way of thy might or resist the sweep of thy wing?

Buy secret medicines if you want to; trust to their claims and unknown power. But it isn't wise when health is failing. About Scott's Emulsion there is no secret. Its formula can be had for the asking by any physician. It is no untried, doubtful thing. For twenty-five years it has been held up to the physician and the people as the standard emulsion of the world, and it is as much and more the standard to-day as it was a quarter of a century ago. Is the best any too good for you?

Starve to Death.

"No man should marry until he is able to support a wife."

"In that case lots of men would starve to death."—North American.

YOUR "BEST" GIRL.

The Way You Treated Her Once—How Do You Treat Her Now?

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

Those were happy days.
Courting days!

Love is a lightning that never really strikes a man but once. It may graze him a second time or a third, but it doesn't really get into his vitals but that once. After that it may scorch him a little here and there, but he only gets "done a nice, crisp brow" just once. You can't cook the same bird a second time—you may "warm it over," but that isn't really cooking, either in kitchen or courtship.

Do you remember the days when you

courted her? Do you remember the old trysting places?

Were you one of the good boys who used to really take her to church and sit beside her there and thrill thrills every time her skirts rustled, and build air castles about the future while the preacher's voice sounded like an echo talking to somebody way-off in the next county?

Or were you one of the naughty boys who didn't go into the church, but hung around outside, and then, at the benediction, made a wild dash for the door and crooked your elbow as she came down the church steps? And if she was graciously pleased to take it, didn't you walk home with her with your pompadour fairly sweeping the star-dust from the milky-way? Didn't you lop, and loll and hang on that front gate until her pa gave up mending it in despair, and let it fall off the hinges, never to be replaced until after that dizzy, all-mixed-up day when you were married?

What kind of a vehicle was in your courtship? There always is a vehicle of some kind—a buggy or a boat, or just a sled to coast on in winter.

If it was a sled do you remember how careful you were to hold her on as you went spinning down the snow-clad hills? And how you put your arm around her to keep her from slipping on the way up again?

If it was a buggy, do you remember how the old horse used to saunter up and down the green-walled lanes, stopping now and then to nibble at the hedges or reach up and pull a tender twig from an overhanging tree? For, although it was summer, you were so afraid she would catch cold, that you had to hold her cloak on with both hands.

The stars do not shine as bright nowadays, and there isn't anything like as many.

Maybe it was a boat. An old, water-soaked, water-logged craft, with mildewed planks turning green. The oars were heavy and clumsy and made big blood blisters on your palms, but what did you care, when you were showing her how strong and what a skillful oarsman you were? And you pulled upstream early in the evening, on the shallow side under the long point where the current wasn't strong. When the stars began to peep out here and there and the only trace of the departed day was just a faint shadow of aurora borealis in the west, you pulled across the river into the bend where the current ran strong under the high banks. The moon came out and danced across the rippling waters and in just one place made a long lane of milky light clear to the other shore. The overhanging cotton-wood trees shed fleecy cotton balls that softly fell with long, graceful sweeps to and fro, and at last littered the surface of the laping water like a fall of summer snow. Wasn't the current in the bend so swift that you found it unnecessary to row? You took an oar and sat in the stern beside her. The seat was so small that it was a beautifully snug fit. And then she took the oar and tried to guide the boat. And you had to put your arm clear around her to reach that oar and help her guide for fear she'd run the boat into a bank of soft sand and sink. At last, when the landing-place was reached, how carefully you were lest she'd get just one splash of water on those dainty little boots!

Are you as careful—are you as thoughtful of her now—as in the old days of sled and boat riding? Do you ever stop to think of her health now that she is your wife and the mother of your babies?

Do you know that seven women out of every ten suffer from weakness or disease of the delicate organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible? Do you know that their sufferings steal the graceful spring from their carriage, the enchanting curves from their figures, the color from their cheeks and the love-light from their eyes? Do you know that these conditions, if neglected, condemn the mother to an untimely death, and her babes to sickness and suffering? Do you know that there is a safe and unfailing remedy for all troubles of this description within the reach of all? There is. It is Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs concerned. It imparts to them the tone, vigor and elasticity that rob maternity of its dangers and its terrors. It cures all functional and organic disorders of the organs, and with them all sympathetic manifestations like neuralgia, hysteria, spasms, chorea, St. Vitus dance, nervous prostration, despondency and irritability.

Taken during the period preceding maternity it banishes the usual discomforts and makes baby's coming safe, easy and comparatively painless. It insures robust children. It restores the vivacity of manner, the sprightliness, the vigor, the color of cheek and love-light of the eye of girlhood.

A man who observes and "wi' observation thinks" knows that women shudder at the thought of the embarrassing "examinations" upon which nearly all doctors insist. Rather than undergo these they suffer in silence. The husband should interfere with his knowledge that these examinations are very generally unnecessary. He should send for Dr Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. It doesn't cost a cent now—it used to cost 1,50 a copy. It contains 1,008 pages and over 300 illustrations. It tells a woman all about herself and how to treat herself. It tells how to care for and treat the children. For a paper-covered copy send 21 one-cent stamps to cover cost of mailing only, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. French cloth binding 10 cents more. The "Favorite Prescription" is for sale by all competent druggists—and those who are honest will not try to get you to take some inferior substitute.

The Sunday School.

First Quarterly Review—Titles and Golden Texts.

Golden text for the quarter—We are labourers together with God—1 Cor. 3:9

1. CHRIST'S ASCENSION.

While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke, 24:51.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN.

They were all filled with the Holy Ghost.—Acts 2:4.

3. A MULTITUDE CONVERTED.

The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off.—Acts 2:39.

4. THE LAME MAN HEALED.

His name, through faith in his name, hath made this man strong. Acts 3:16.

5. THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN.

There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, —Acts 4:12.

6. TRUE AND FALSE GIVING.

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Sam. 16:7.

7. THE PRISON OPENED.

We ought to obey God rather than men.—Acts 5:29.

8. THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2:10.

9. DISCIPLES DISPERSED.

They that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.—Acts 8:14.

10. THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERT.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.—Acts 8:35.

11. SAUL THE PERSECUTOR, CONVERTED.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15.

12. CHRISTIAN SELF-RESTRAINT.

Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. 1. Cor. 9:25.

13. REVIEW.

The word of God grew and multiplied.—Acts 12:24.

Review Hints for the Intermediate Teacher.

This review may be taught to an intermediate class as the beginning of church history, for our quarter's lessons have given the facts of the founding of the church of Christ, and quite a period of its growth. It will also be useful as a pre-view for future lessons, as our studies for most of the year will show history of the Christian church, and the work of its preachers and leaders. Ask a few questions upon the Book of Acts, recalling its title and author. It will also be helpful to use the map, asking some scholar to point out the places where the events occurred, or making a diagram on the blackboard, and, as each location is marked, ask what took place there. The first locality in connection with our lessons was the Mount of Olives. What family that Jesus loved lived in Bethany on the Mount of Olives? On the sloping side of that mountain was the last earthly spot where Jesus walked. When he had bidden his disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father while he blessed them, what did they see?

Christ.—Jesus, whom they had known and loved, had gone from them to heaven. Before he went, he charged them to tell of what they had seen and known, to be witnesses unto him, and to preach his gospel in Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth. They obeyed, they preached Christ and wrote of him, and we can now read the words of John: "These are writen, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

The Church of Christ.—How many days did the disciples spend praying in the upper room? How many days was Jesus seen upon earth after his resurrection? What was the fiftieth day when the apostles and friends of Jesus were in one place? What did they all see and hear? With what were they all filled? The Day of Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church of Christ. Who preached a sermon on that day? The promise of the Holy Spirit to be given was fulfilled, the gift of tongues was to carry the gospel of Christ in many languages to many places. How many were assembled in the upper room? When Peter preached, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ," how many received it the word and were baptized? The church of Christ was established; who "added to them day by day those that were being saved?"

The Church Prospering.—They were a happy people; they so loved Christ that they loved each other. What did the rich do for the poor? What benevolent man sold his land, and gave the money to the church? To whom did the Lord give power to do miracles? Who saw a lame man at the beautiful gate? What did Peter and John do for him? In whose name? What did Peter and John preach which offended the Sadducees and the priests? Yet the church was growing, for many more accepted Christ, until the number of believers was five thousand.

Temptation and Sin.—Evil entered the church. Two of its members showed a spirit of hypocrisy and deceit. Who sold land, and pretended to give the money to the Lord? To whom was power given to see Ananias' sin? What did Peter say to him? How did Sapphira, his wife, share in the sin and the swift punishment? Why was it that "great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things?"

Enemies to the Church.—What was done to Peter and John because they preached Christ? Before whom were they tried? Where were they put for safe keeping? How were they safely delivered from prison? Who did wonders and miracles among the people, and spoke so wisely that they could not answer him? How did Stephen's face look when they wrongly accused him? What did he see as he looked up into heaven? What were his dying words? How did they put him to death?

Scattered Abroad.—The Lord can make the wrath of man to praise him. When the disciples were scattered, after Stephen's death, what did they do everywhere? Who went to Samaria preaching Christ? How did the Lord bid Philip go on a long journey? What man did he join riding in a chariot? What was the man reading? After Philip preached to him of Jesus, what did the man say he believed? Our Golden Text was proved true, "The word of God grew and multiplied." From place to place it was carried and taught, as the believers in Christ were scattered abroad, and so churches were planted and grew by persecution.

A Bitter Persecuter.—Who held the garments of the men who stoned Stephen? For what did Saul go to Damascus? Who appeared to him by the way? What did Jesus say to him? How many days was Saul blind? What did Jesus say Saul was chosen to do and be? What did Saul preach in the synagogues? The enemy to the church became the greatest apostle, and, in wonder, many said, "Is that once persecuted as now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed?" After Saul was called Paul, and had traveled and preached in far countries, to whom did he write the letters we now study? And so we of the church of Christ—his beloved church for which he gave himself, the church for which he prayed "that they all may be one."—Faith Lattimer, in Sunday School Times.

"I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED with an affection of the Throat from childhood, caused by diphtheria, and have used various remedies, but have never found anything equal to Brown's Bronchial Troches."—Rev. G. M. Fampton, Piketon, Ky. Sold only in boxes.

Cheap at the Price.

Owner—"How much will you give a load for that dirt?" Pat—"Twinty cints, sor." Owner—"Umph! What do you want, the arth?" Pat—"Yis, sor—fer twinty cints th' load."—Judge.

Natural Inquiry.

Cholly—"The bwute! He said he would blow my brains out."

"And did he?"—Life.

PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS

WHITE CLOTH DRESS.

Very Showy Affair That Can Be Worn at the Most Fashionable Winter Receptions.

The most gorgeous white dresses are worn for winter. They are of ladies' cloth, a little inclined towards buff, yet white enough to present a most striking appearance. These white ladies' cloth dresses come in patterns with a heavy tracery of tobacco brown and black.

The handsomest ones are trimmed with

PATTERN DRESS OF WHITE CLOTH.

a heavy cording of twisted black and brown velvet, wound tightly together to form a heavy rope. This is fastened upon the skirt in great loops that form a pattern extending completely around it.

The "pattern trimming" provides for a small bolero jacket with a narrow edging of fur down the middle of the front. The bolero is made plain, tailor-fitting, and has the close cut of a military jacket.

Underneath a little coat of this kind there may be a silk waist worn in any shade. The most modish, however, is a small one of black silk, made in modified blouse style. It has the softest crush sleeves, that lie easily under the bolero jacket.

It might be mentioned that the skirts of these light cloth dresses are made quite short for walking, and to show the fanciest of shoes underneath, many of which have tops of white cloth.

McKINLEY'S GOOD START.

His Administration Growing More Popular Every Day.

It is the universal verdict in the national capital that President McKinley has made a better start with his administration than any other President of recent years. Not since General Grant first came to the White House has a President made as good an impression with his policies, his utterances and his bearing as President McKinley has made during his first four or five days.

It may be said that this is praise which his friends and partisans would make whether it were justified or not. But it is not only the friends of the new President who are saying this. Democrats, silver men, Populists, even Republicans who from circumstances were not originally counted in the McKinley following, and on the whole were rather antagonistic to him, say the same thing.

The more it is studied the better the President's inaugural address is liked. It points out with boldness and frankness a business policy for the country. The President follows it up with businesslike preparations for putting his policy in force. He is conciliatory to all men, and to all other branches of the government. Instead of "taking congress on his hands," he pays a compliment to that body in his inaugural address. He sends to the senate his friendliest greetings.

Everything the President has said and done in the few days he has been in Washington has attracted friends to him and won him confidence.

At the White House a great change is noticeable in the manner of doing business and receiving visitors. Instead of the rigid rules, the military-like methods, the exclusiveness which prevailed when Mr. Cleveland was there, a truly Democratic spirit pervades the atmosphere. Men are made to feel welcome. The President's assistants treat every one with great consideration. They assume that their business is to assist those who wish to consult with the President, and not to impede their progress.

As for President McKinley, he is patience and good nature personified. He sees every one that calls. He is lighthearted and pleasant. Gifted with a splendid memory for names and faces he greets his old friends and acquaintances familiarly and even affectionately, calling some of them, well known to him, by their first names. He can talk to three or four persons together and understand everything that is going on. He brings into play his phenomenal tact, and dismisses his callers at a rapid rate, and yet with everyone well satisfied with his treatment. More than one visitor during the past three days has remarked that "President McKinley actually appears to like the people."

It is needless to say that this transition from the Cleveland regime is the more pleasant because of the contrast which it affords.

Hessville, Ohio, Feb. 27, 1897.—We have used Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family for the past two years, and we intend to keep it in the house at all times. It has done wonders for myself and wife. It gives a good appetite, and we recommend it to all sufferers from impure blood and a run down condition of the system.—D. A. Swinehart.

HOOD'S PILLS easy to buy, easy to take, easy in effect. 25c.

TOBACCO KILLS CHOLERA.

Nicotine is Fatal to the Germs of the Dread Disease.

Defenders of tobacco smoking fail to make use of the most powerful arguments in its favor. Hitherto the most that has been claimed in favor of smoking was a certain subtle, beneficial effect on the digestion and a soothing effect on the nerves.

It has been learned recently from the report of investigations of the effects of tobacco during the epidemic of cholera at Hamburg that cholera microbes could not exist in the mouths of smokers.

There were no living bacteria after twenty-four hours in cigars made up with water containing 1,500,000 cholera germs to the cubic inch. There were no traces of microbes to be found in any cigars manufactured in Hamburg at the time of the epidemic. The microbes die in a half to two hours' exposure to smoke in Brazil, Sumatra or Havanna tobacco. Experiments show that in five minutes after beginning to smoke the microbes in the mouth are killed. Another fact established is that none of the persons employed in the tobacco factories at Hamburg contracted cholera.—Exchange.

A MOOD.

Oh, to be alone,
To escape from the work, the play,
The talking every day.
To escape, from all I have done,
And all that remains to do—
To escape—yes, even from you
My only love, and be
Alone and free.

Could I only stand
Between gray moors and gray sky,
Where the wind and the plovers cry
And no man is at hand.
And feel the free wind blow
On my rain-wet face, and know
I am free—not yours, but my very own,
Free and alone.

For the soft fire light
And the home of your heart, my dear,
They hurt being always here.
I want to stand upright,
And cool my eyes in the air,
And see how my back can bear
Burdens—to try, to know,
To learn, to grow.

I am only you!
I am yours, part of you, your wife,
And I have no other life.
I cannot think, I cannot do,
I cannot breath, cannot see.
There is "us," but there is not "me."
And worst, at your kiss, I grow
Contented so.

—Anonymous.

GREECE OF TO-DAY.

The Forum for March contains an article on modern Greece from the pen of the late Prof. Blackie, which is especially interesting in view of the recent stand taken by that brave little kingdom. Prof. Blackie points out—a fact that has been demonstrated afresh since his article was written—that Greece, behind an outward show of slavish debasement to the Turk, has had a heart of sturdy independence, that cherished the patriotic memories of ages and has seized eagerly on every chance that might enable her to stand before the world in the attitude and character that has given her the most prominent place in the history of the human race.

The Greeks were politically extinguished by the Turks in 1453, but intellectually and morally they remained free, and the Turks were glad to employ the intelligent and enlightened Greeks of Constantinople as governors for their half-conquered provinces. These men, outwardly doing duty for their masters, were silently but effectively preparing the way for the two years' struggle which gave Greece the right to look Europe in the face as a noble people, determined to die rather than live the slaves of a hateful tyranny. In 1826 Athens was little better than a ruined village and its amazing growth in the course of half a century into an imposing city, asserting its place among other famous European cities that combine commercial enterprise with cultivated intelligence, is due the noble patriotic pride of the Greeks.

A numerous class of expatriated Greeks, all over Europe, in Asia Minor and in Africa, "outside of Greece bodily, but intensely beating with warm pulses of patriotism, from the moment of the publicly recogn

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1897.

Largest and Best Weekly Published, and Largest Circulation!

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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Entered at the Postoffice at Toledo as Second-Class Mail Matter.

CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 136,000

READ OUR NEW BLADE BICYCLE OFFER!

On the fifth page of this paper will be found the announcement of the Toledo Blade bicycle, 1897 pattern.

This is a new pattern, embracing all the good points of the 1896 model, with added improvements. The crank is much improved. One crank and the axle are forged in one piece, the other crank fitted and keyed. The detachable sprocket is also a notable improvement. The pedals and saddles are new, strictly up to date, and of the highest grade.

We sold over a hundred wheels last year, and every buyer was satisfied. This year the wheel is still better. It is the equal of any $85 wheel on the market.

A very beautiful "Blade" name-plate is now on every wheel. Read the offer on the fifth page, and let us hear from you quickly!

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Seven years ago, on the floor of the House of Representatives, in a discussion of civil service reform, Major McKinley pointed out that the law was put upon the statute book by Republican votes, and that every national platform of the party since its enactment had declared not only in favor of its continuance in full vigor, but in favor of its enlargement so as to apply more generally to the public service. He maintained that "this is not alone the declaration and purpose of the Republican party, but it is in accordance with its highest and best sentiment—aye, more, it is sustained by the best sentiment of the whole country, Republican and Democrat alike"; and he concluded with these emphatic remarks:

Mr. Chairman, the Republican party must take no backward step. The merit system is here, and it is here to stay; and we may just as well understand and accept it now, and give our attention to correcting the abuses, if any exist, and improving the law wherever it can be done to the advantage of the public service.

That's the way he felt in 1890; and now, in 1897, we may be sure that Major McKinley feels the same way, only far more strongly, for his health has been endangered by the onset of place hunters, and that, too, before his inauguration.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The new administration is taking an active interest in the Nicaragua canal. It is well known that Secretary Sherman, while in the Senate, was strongly in favor of its construction. In the last debate in that body he said: "I would be very glad to see another treaty made between Nicaragua and the United States which would provide for the completion of the canal."

In his new position, he can move actively in the matter, and he has already begun along the line of opening negotiations for a treaty with the five states composing the Greater Central American Republic along the lines of the celebrated Frelinghuysen-Zavala treaty, which in effect established an American protectorate over Nicaragua and committed the government to the construction of the waterway.

This treaty was pending when Mr. Cleveland went into the White House twelve years ago. About the first thing the latter did was to withdraw the agreement between the two countries, his ground for so doing being that the treaty, if carried into effect, would be a perpetual menace to the nation's peace and would provoke endless complications with other countries.

It is now said to be Secretary Sherman's purpose to resurrect the Frelinghuysen-Zavala treaty and frame a new agreement embodying many of its salient features. There will be much opposition to a protectorate, unless it be limited to the protection of the canal itself, and the ports at either end. In any case, the United States should maintain the freedom of the canal to all commerce, as against any powers which may be at war.

It is understood that the plan involves the assumption of all the alleged rights of the existing Nicaragua canal and the Maritime Construction Company, and the payment to these corporations of the money they have actually spent up to date on the canal, a sum very much smaller than the $8,000,000 which they claim to have put into the enterprise. British intrigue will actively antagonize the proposed new treaty and may succeed in defeating it, but the proposition has powerful support and will be urged vigorously.

There are thousands of people who waste their own time and that of the recipient, by their mania for writing letters to public men. McKinley's stenographer kept count, and says that from February 17 up to the time he left Canton for Washington 98,331 letters were received, and since the inauguration the daily mail has become larger. At the present rate the President's correspondents are contributing $4,000 a month to the public treasury in their postage stamps. Nobody benefits except the United States government, for this expenditure for stamps will, if continued, be nearly enough to pay the President's salary.

The first appointment under the McKinley administration is that of pension agent at Detroit. The reason the appointment was made so early was because the office was vacant.

The Cripple Creek gold mines will reach an output of $15,000,000 this year. And still the people of Colorado stick to the silver folly.

John Hay, if he be appointed ambassador to England, will certainly decline to follow Bayard's speech-making example.

THE MESSAGE.

President McKinley's message to congress is brief but forceful. He does not require many words to recite the facts leading to the conclusion that an extra session is necessary because of the condition of the revenues of the government.

In a compact statement he gives the facts regarding the deficiency of revenues for the past five years, and shows that the issue of $262,000,000 of bonds was the only thing that stood between the national treasury and bankruptcy. He says with emphasis: "Not only are we without a surplus in the treasury, but we have increased the national debt with decreasing receipts."

Ample revenues are necessary to strengthen confidence and meet government obligations. The way to obtain sufficient revenue is to enact a proper tariff law; and so imperative does the president regard this duty that he urges upon congress that it shall enact such legislation before transacting any other business.

President McKinley believes, and impresses his belief upon the attention of congress, that the new revenue bill must provide an ample sinking fund to accumulate the means of liquidating the public debt as it becomes due, to meet all the obligations of the government, and also to pay pensions and all other accumulating indebtedness.

In the preparation of this bill, he also urges congress to take care that proper safeguard of protection shall be given to our own industries, in order that our factories, mines and industries may be encouraged and that labor may receive its adequate reward.

It will be ten years next December since Cleveland sent his famous free trade message to congress. For the first time in the history of regular presidential messages, he devoted it to a single issue—that of urging the destruction of a tariff based upon the principle of protection. With that bray upon his trumpet the crusade in favor of British free trade began in earnest. It triumphed in the election of Cleveland and a Democratic congress in 1892.

Four years ago that administration entered upon its lease of power. Within a few months the country was in the throes of a financial panic, due to the expectation of revolutionary tariff legislation—an expectation that was fulfilled by the enactment of the Wilson tariff law. From that time to this, the country has suffered from prostrate industries, stagnant trade, low wages to workingmen, with tens of thousands of unemployed.

McKinley's message is the harbinger of a better era. It marks the end of the colossal blunder of the people which was the result of their following the specious theories advanced by Cleveland in his 1887 message. It means that the conditions of prosperity will be restored so far as legislation can do it, and that prosperity for the nation is at last fully on its way.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENTS.

There is much to be said in favor of President McKinley's business-like rule that aspirants for national office must have the indorsement of the Republican Senator or Senators from their own states, as well as of their Representative, if he be a Republican.

This puts up an effective bar against involving the President in factional quarrels in any state where they exist. McKinley is quoted as saying to one Senator:

I do not intend to become involved in any factional quarrels in any state, and if you can not decide among yourselves which candidates you favor, and reach an agreement, you must not expect me to decide for you.

The result of this policy will be that where the Republicans in Congress can not agree in regard to the patronage, it will be likely to go elsewhere, or else the present incumbents will hold on indefinitely. It necessarily follows that state delegations in Senate and House are "getting together" in a way they have not followed for many years, and discussing local patronage in a business-like way.

President McKinley has thus reversed the practice of the past twelve years, and he will avoid much trouble by so doing. The fundamental error of President Harrison was his endeavor to decide for himself on the patronage from every state. He apparently feared to take the advice of the Republican Senators and Representatives. As a result, he was very unpopular among the politicians. Every aspirant who failed to get what he desired, blamed the President; and he and his friends arrayed themselves factionally against the executive.

Under the common sense rule adopted now, the disappointed ones—and they will be legion—can have no fault to find with President McKinley. The responsible ones are the Senators and Representatives. The White House will no longer be the target of disaffection. The reform is most commendable, and it will result in party harmony instead of factional division.

MR. BRYAN AND FREE SILVER.

Bryan and the free silver cause are traveling a rocky road.

Only a third of a year since Bryan's defeat at the polls, and see how the Boy Orator and his cause are treated?

Bryan attempted a series of lectures, but the people would not pay a dollar to hear him, and the lecture field had to be abandoned.

Here in Toledo, where the silver craze ran rampant the silver candidate for mayor in a Democratic convention was turned down.

In Cleveland, the home of Tom Johnson, L. E. Holden and other free silver stars, John Farley, a recognized sound money Democrat, carried off the mayoralty nomination.

By an overwhelming vote, the legislature of Arkansas refused to take down the picture of Jeff Davis from above the speaker's chair and substitute a painting of Bryan.

But the hardest blow of all was administered by the Democratic congressional caucus, which turned down Dick Bland, the noblest Roman of them all, and the leading candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, and refused to give him the empty honor of the caucus nomination for speaker. Mr. Bland received but 22 of the 108 votes cast.

The "Peerless Boy Orator" is now being forgotten while the silver cause is giving him a neck and neck race down the toboggan.

THE NEW SENATE.

The only critical point which the Republican administration will meet in its efforts to legislate for the best interests of the United States, and of all the people, irrespective of occupation or locality, is in the new senate. The make-up of that body is as follows:

Straight Republicans, including Kyle	43
Silver Republicans	5
Straight Democrats	6
Silver Democrats	26
Populists	7
Vacancies	3
Total	90
Necessary to control	46

In the Senate, everything is at sea. No party having a clear majority of that body, it is impossible to predict what will be done in the matter of its reorganization. The Republicans are disposed to insist that if the committees are reorganized, the few Populist members shall align themselves with one or the other of the two great parties, so that they shall not hold the balance of power in committee organizations. This, of course, the Populists will probably refuse to do, for they are apparently determined to hold their party organization intact. Should this issue be made, and the Populists decline to comply, it would reduce the probabilities of definite action in the way of reorganization.

Another plan has been mooted to bring about a general reorganization both of the Senate and of the committees by the election of ex-Senator Dubois as secretary, and the combination of Democrats and Populists in reorganizing the committees. This, however, seems to be an impracticable scheme, as it is understood that the Gold Democrats would refuse to co-operate with the Silver Democrats in a combination of this sort, and the leaders of the silver wing of the Democracy are unwilling to enter upon any undertaking which would drive the Gold Democrats to "line up" with the Republicans. There is more of a disposition on the part of the Silver Democrats to extend the olive branch to the men who refused to co-operate with them during the late campaign than was apparent when Congress met in December.

The disposition all around seems to be to move very slowly in any attempt to reorganize the committees, and the indications are that if anything is done it will be to simply fill the vacancies with men of the political party represented by the former occupants of the positions, thus making no change in the control of the committees, and making no attempt to reorganize the Senate. This course will leave the finance committee in precisely the condition in which it has existed during the past two years, with the controlling vote in the hands of Senator Jones, of Nevada, who would probably control it in favor of a tariff bill, but against any currency legislation which did not suit the silver men.

However, there is little expectation of attempting any currency legislation or indeed any other, except tariff and the passage of the necessary appropriation bills during the special session, so that the matter of control of any particular committee is not as important as under other circumstances. Should the new tariff law to be enacted prove itself capable, by the time Congress meets in its regular session, of producing ample revenue, the pressure for general financial legislation will be very much decreased and the importance of the control of this particular committee would thus be materially reduced.

SENATOR HANNA.

The Cleveland Leader's Washington correspondent predicts that Senator Hanna will become "a shining Mark" in the United States Senate. His great executive ability is recognized by his fellow-senators, and his advice is being sought on the many important questions upon which the Senate will be called to act during the coming session.

The correspondent says that Mr. Hanna's leadership in the Senate is not to be brought about by giving him prominent committee appointments, thus creating jealousies among men older in point of service, who have worked for such positions for years. He will rather be counseled with, and his splendid talent for organization, and his great executive ability, thus find a fitting field in the dispatch of senatorial business.

Another thing which has disarmed possible antagonism to Senator Hanna in that body is the position he has taken that he will not attempt to dispense patronage and dictate appointments. Those senators who have gone to him to discuss such topics have been referred to President McKinley, as was proper. This attitude has won him many friends, and the outlook is that Ohio will have just cause to be proud of her junior senator for his business qualifications and sound, practical views, as she will of her senior senator, Foraker, for his undoubted powers as a brilliant orator and his sterling statesmanship.

FOR COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

The appointment of H. Clay Evans, of Tennessee, to be commissioner of pensions will meet with the approval not only of the old soldiers but of Republicans generally. Mr. Evans is one of the fighting Republicans of the South and deserves much credit as one of the leaders in breaking down sectional lines and keeping the Chattanooga district in the Republican column. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but has been a resident of Tennessee for many years. He served in Congress, was first assistant postmaster general under Harrison, and later ran for governor of Tennessee, was elected but was counted out by the Democrats.

Mr. Evans has always taken an active part in political campaigns. He is a forcible speaker and a good organizer. He did effective work during the recent campaign and has always so conducted himself as to deserve recognition. The appointment will be popular.

Already the "Ohio idea" at Washington has become extremely popular. It is not the one-man government idea of Cleveland. Those who are seeking positions find that they must be indorsed by their senators and representatives, and that the President is not going to make appointments which have not such indorsement.

New South Wales recently entered upon a new experiment in low tariff, and the result has been extreme distress. An official report says the result has been reduction in wages, workmen discharged, works closed and industries abandoned. That sounds much like our own experience.

The office-seekers are playing in hard luck just now. They are told that no appointments are to be made except those which are absolutely necessary until the tariff bill is passed. Consequently they are leaving Washington in a very sad state of mind.

BLAINE'S RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The new Republican tariff law will contain a reciprocity clause, and it will be on the lines advocated by James G. Blaine.

It will differ materially from the reciprocity clause as embodied in the McKinley law.

That clause was a negative, or retaliatory proposition. It threatened retaliation upon those countries which refused to enter into reciprocal relations with the United States.

This was not Mr. Blaine's suggestion; he favored an affirmative proposition.

Mr. Blaine's proposition was like this: To declare the ports of the United States free to all the products of any nation on the American hemisphere upon which no export duties are imposed whenever and so long as such nation shall admit to its ports, free of all national, municipal, provincial and other taxes, our flour, cornmeal and other breadstuffs, preserved meats, fish, vegetables and fruits, cottonseed oil and its products, rice and other provisions, including all articles of wood, agricultural implements and machinery, mining and mechanical machinery, structural steel and iron, steel rails, locomotives and railway cars and supplies, street cars and refined petroleum.

This, it is believed, will increase exports to even a greater extent than under the McKinley law.

The good work of the reciprocity clause in the McKinley law was not realized until it was repealed by a Democratic congress. Under the provisions of that law, the export trade of the United States reached high water mark. New markets were opened to American producers, and the country was enjoying the greatest prosperity it ever experienced when the blow fell and ruin followed the triumph of Democracy at the polls.

Following the repeal of our reciprocity laws, came retaliatory enactments by many of the countries with whom we were enjoying amicable trade relations. The result was soon apparent in the falling off of our exports, the farmers more than any other class feeling the effects of a restricted market. There was not a country on the globe in which our trade relations were not restricted by this act of the Democratic party.

But the scheme of the great Maine statesman will be embodied in the tariff measure which the Republican party will enact into law and will have in operation by the beginning of the next fiscal year. The result will be the opening of ports in every foreign country to American products. The merchants of the world will await the American producer. With better markets will come better prices and the return of the prosperous times enjoyed in 1892. The spirit of Blaine will permeate the new tariff law.

THE DEFICIT.

Already we hear, from hide-bound Democratic papers, the Ananias-like assertion that the issue of bonds during the Cleveland administration was "not made necessary by any deficiency of revenues," that they were simply to maintain the gold reserve.

The cold, hard truth of the matter is, that while the bond issues were made primarily to keep up the gold reserve, the greenbacks redeemed in gold were used for governmental expenses, and that the Treasury would have been bankrupt had it not been for the bond issues.

The official figures of receipts and expenditures for the four years of the Cleveland administration are as follows:

	Receipts.	Expdtrs.	Deficit
1893, 10 mo..	$274,401,377	$313,260,831	$38,859,453
1894.....	301,705,075	363,535,529	61,830,453
1895.....	317,047,653	352,142,115	35,094,462
1896.....	314,360,098	364,584,393	50,224,295
1897, 2 mo....	48,717,991	59,063,445	10,347,454
Total....	$1,256,457,196	$1,452,844,316	$196,387,119

The total deficit for the four years was, as will be seen above, $196,387,119. During Cleveland's administration there were four distinct issues of bonds, of a total face value of $262,315,400. These bonds were all sold at a premium, so that the total amount the government received for them was $293,454,286.

When President Harrison went out of office, the net cash balance on hand in the Treasury was $124,128,087. If there had been no bond issues, the bottom of the Treasury would have been reached in April, 1895. All the cash available in the Treasury for current expenses would have been exhausted, and the government have been bankrupt.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY.

The treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States was not ratified by the Senate during the last Congress. A number of amendments were made, but the treaty, as a whole, was not acted upon.

All bills not passed by both Houses, at the end of Congress, are dead. This, however, does not affect the treaty itself, but only the amendments. They are all dead. Hence the treaty is before the Senate in precisely the form in which it was first presented. The amendments made are simply so much waste paper.

There are over a dozen new senators who have just taken their seats. Their opinions as to the treaty are not yet known, of course; but there is a feeling at Washington that the Senate and the new President are on the best of terms, and that his appointments and recommendations will not be met in a spirit of factious personal opposition by any senator. President McKinley's inaugural took strong ground in favor of the principle of arbitration, and it is to be hoped the treaty will be ratified without unnecessary delay.

There has been a mighty change in the attitude of the Havana authorities toward this country since the change in administrations. The requests for recognition of the rights of American citizens in Cuba are now very promptly and courteously complied with by Spain. This does not mean that the United States is hostile to Spain, or that Spain is actuated by fear. But it does show a wholesome respect for the American firmness of the new Republican administration.

The Blade believes that Congress should take hold of the matter of Indian schools in a business-like way. The problem is very easy of solution. Let a sufficient sum be appropriated for the erection of school-houses, and for the employment of teachers, directly by the government, and thus get rid at one stroke of all the sectarian schools which are being run by money from the national treasury.

The Grant monument in New York city is to be dedicated on April 27, and a magnificent demonstration will be held on that occasion. New York ought to celebrate the wiping away of the reproach of the many years during which the monument was not touched.

The civil service law is now the recipient of curses both loud and deep from the disappointed spoilsmen.

Sons and fathers, read Thos. Slater's offer on page 4.

SPEAKER THOMAS B. REED.

For the third time Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, has been elected Speaker of the National House of Representatives. This is an honor to a man who has become known throughout the country through his work in Congress extending over so many years that he not only is Speaker but father of the House, having served continuously for a greater length of time than any other member of that body. The Republicans have confidence in the ability of the big man from Maine, and there is a feeling that with him in the Speaker's chair the business of the House will be conducted quickly and well.

It is also significant that the members of the House refused to support a motion for the appointment of a committee to revise the rules governing that body. While many of the members would like to have these rules modified, believing that in the hand of a Speaker they give him too great a leverage, the prompt manner in which business was conducted during the last Congress proves conclusively that Mr. Reed used the power the rules gave him to the good of the country by expediting business and putting an end to filibustering tactics.

Mr. Reed rightly believes that the country expects the extra session to promptly pass a tariff measure that it may go into effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The House must do its work on this important measure first, and under the present rules this can be done at an early date and the bill sent to the Senate. These rules have made the House a business body, and if the Senate will act wisely it will at least adopt a rule providing for closure of debate. The country is looking for a business administration and Congress can do no better than set the pace by passing the Dingley bill at an early date.

NEW OHIO IDEAS.

President McKinley does not intend to permit office seekers to wholly engross his time, neither does he propose to assume responsibility for all appointments. In the first place he believes that the affairs of the country should be placed on a business basis before attention is given to turning out Democrats and filling their places with Republicans. In the second place he has given state delegations to understand that they must get together and agree on candidates for public place; that the states and not the president must weed out candidates for office.

The result is already manifested in the action of the various state delegations. They are sending home scores of applicants by frankly telling them there is no hope of their appointment. Already the army of office seekers is thinning out and the indication is that there will be less trouble with this persistent class than ever before. This is a new Ohio idea but it is sure to work successfully and will relieve President McKinley of a vast deal of annoyance and will place the responsibility of appointment where it properly belongs.

The fire losses of February in the United States and Canada were $8,676,750, against $9,730,100 in 1896, and $12,360,200 in 1895. The total for the first two months of 1897 was $20,726,450, against $20,770,100 in 1896 and $24,255,800 in 1895. The only point for congratulation is that the tendency is downward: but the loss is still frightful.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

The Fifty-fifth Congress met in extra session on Monday. One of the first things to be done in the House is to appoint the Ways and Means committee, and Speaker Reed will probably have named it by the time this issue of The Blade reaches its readers. There will probably be no change in the personnel of the majority of the committee, for the reason that all the Republican members were re-elected. There will be two vacancies to be filled on the minority side, however, owing to the retirement of one and the death of another member of the committee as constituted in the last Congress. There is understood to be a desire on the part of some members of the majority to have a declaration of policy adopted by the party caucus, but this, it is understood, will be opposed by the supporters of the Speaker, who are anxious to have his discretion untrammeled by any such action. Beyond the enactment of a tariff bill no definite programme has yet been formulated in either house, though, as has been heretofore suggested, some action is likely to be taken in reference to legislation connected with the currency. It would be a happy outcome if the leaders of the two houses could be induced to favor the consideration of the bankruptcy bill, which is a measure urgently demanded, and which has in it no element likely to cause a division on party lines.

The majority of the Ways and Means committee have agreed upon the outlines of the sugar schedule of the new tariff. Two points of importance have been, it is said, definitely decided, namely, that the duty on sugar should be a specific rate of $1.62½ for each 100 pounds of sugar testing 96 degrees, and a concession of 12½ cents per 100 pounds under a reciprocity arrangement. This will afford a considerably higher average rate than the existing sugar schedule, and will add about $27,000,000 to the annual revenue. The same proportionate concession, it is understood, will run through the schedule of sugars testing a less number of degrees, and there will probably be no concession greater than upon refined sugar. The present countervailing duty against sugar from bounty-paying countries is one-tenth of a cent per pound. It is expected that the duty under the new law will not be named in the law, but that the secretary of the Treasury will be authorized to ascertain what bounty is paid by countries from which sugar is imported into the United States, and to levy upon such sugar an additional duty equal to the bounty. It will occasion no surprise that the changes thus far reported in other schedules are largely in the direction of restoring the rates of the McKinley tariff law of 1890.

The fate of the income tax provisions of the tariff law has not deterred adventurous legislators in other fields. One of these, a member of the New York assembly, has brought forward a measure which provides that after January 1, 1898, a tax shall be annually levied upon the gross profits and income received the previous calendar year by every citizen of the state, whether received from property rents, interests, dividends, salaries, or any source whatever. Such tax is to be one-half per cent per annum on an income over $1,000 and less than $5,000, 1 per cent on sums over $5,000 and less than $10,000, 1½ per cent on sums over $10,000 and less than $20,000, 2 per cent on sums over $20,000 and less than $30,000, 2½ per cent on over $30,000 and less than $40,000, and one-half per cent tax added to every additional $10,000 taxed up to $100,000. It does not appear yet whether this measure can count on the support of any considerable number of men in the legislature. Perhaps it can not; but it is, at any rate, rather singular that such a measure should make its appearance in a state like New York so shortly after the defeat of the federal income tax scheme.

Among the other schemes for taxation brought forward in the New York legislature is a bill to tax shareholders of the trust companies in the state in the same manner as shareholders in state and national banks. This bill, which has been in the senate, has aroused great opposition on the part of the trust companies, who have sent able counsel to Albany to oppose the bill. They argue that there is no comparison between banking institutions and trust companies, and that there is no reason for taxing them in the same manner, one important point of distinction being that trust companies are limited in their investments, while no such restrictions are placed on banks. Another argument urged against the bill is that it is unconstitutional, in that it indirectly taxes United States bonds, and that the state has no right to attempt to tax a state corporation in an indirect endeavor to reach United States securities owned by the trust companies. It is certainly unreasonable to subject trust companies to the same taxation as banks when the restrictions upon their power of investment are considered, but some legislators seem to regard it as one of the essentials of their activity to tax everything that it is possible to lay a burden upon.

One of the earliest official acts of President McKinley has been the issue of a proclamation declaring the new patent convention with Japan to be operative. This convention puts into operation at once the sixteenth article of the treaty of commerce and navigation which was negotiated at Washington in 1894. The sixteenth article, which has now been put in force, is of importance to the manufacturers and exporters of the United States because of its provision that the citizens or subjects of either of the two countries shall enjoy in the territories of the other the same protection as native citizens or subjects in regard to patents, trade-marks and designs upon fulfillment of the formalities prescribed by law. The rest of the general commercial treaty, it may be remembered, does not go into effect until July 17, 1899. Another item of interest in reference to Japanese relations with the United States is contained in a circular just issued by Commissioner Chamberlain of the navigation bureau, in which he gives notice to customs officers that his office being satisfied that the rules concerning the admeasurement for tonnage of vessels of the United States have been substantially adopted by the government of Japan, Japanese vessels arriving in the United States shall hereafter be deemed to be of the tonnage denoted in their certificates of registry or other national papers, when furnished with such certificates, to be readmeasured in any port of the United States.

The new President has done the right and wise thing in endorsing so heartily the arbitration treaty and in advocating its passage in its original form. Perhaps the Senate will not be disposed to back down. At the same time, Republican senators who opposed the treaty out of hostility to Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Olney will have to consider seriously whether they wish to oppose Mr. McKinley at the very beginning of his administration. Probably most of them will not. The irreconcilables, of course, are Morgan and Daniel. But they can accomplish their ends only by the tacit consent of their colleagues.

The bills providing for a constitutional convention have passed the Tennessee senate, having previously passed the house. The question of a convention is to be submitted to the people in August. If a convention is ordered, delegates are to be elected in October and the convention will meet in November.

Gen. Gomez, the Cuban leader, is seventy-four years old, but all reports of his being sick, superannuated or superseded are declared by a correspondent writing from his camp February 22 to be entirely unfounded. It is claimed that he has planned every important movement of the war up to the present time and to-day is the active and actual leader of the Cubans in arms, in every respect the general-in-chief. His health is wonderfully good for his years. He carries less baggage for his personal comfort than any of his principal officers—even less than his colonels and captains; and his absolute truthfulness, sincerity and devotion, as well as his skillful generalship, bind his troops to him as with hoops of steel. He reiterates the determination of the patriots to accept no terms from Spain short of absolute independence, and gives a multitude of forcible reasons for believing in the ultimate achievement of this end.

Greece's reply to the powers is a diplomatically worded document, but it contains the declaration that its duty specially forbids it to abandon the Cretan people to the mercy of Mussulman fanaticism, and begs the powers to permit the Cretan people themselves to declare how they desire to be governed. The reply has, of course, been regarded as unsatisfactory, and there was a disposition manifested in some quarters to coerce the daring little kingdom summarily. This was notably the attitude of Germany, which to some extent had the support of Austria and Russia. Close students of international politics, however, have felt that those of the powers having the largest interests in the Mediterranean could scarcely be counted upon to go to the extremes recommended by the northern powers, and it has turned out that Italy, France and Great Britain have intimated that in their view coercive measures should be delayed and negotiations continued at Athens. There is no doubt that the governments of these states have been forced to this attitude by the pressure of public opinion, which has been from the first on the side of Greece, and is steadily inclining more and more in the same direction. The situation up to the present seems to indicate that one of the first political talents of contemporary Europe hitherto undervalued or undiscovered is in active operation in the vicinity of Athens.

To add to the European unpleasantness another disturbing incident has occurred. a French expedition of 400 men having taken possession of Boussa, Africa, which has heretofore been regarded as within the British sphere. Even if there were no Cretan crisis to worry over, the powers would have their hands full with other clashings and bickerings.

THE OFFICES SECURE.

Cabinet Officers Surprised at the Little Patronage at Their Disposal.

The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says the officers of the new Cabinet are having some surprises in relation to the civil service extensions. Postmaster General Gary was amazed at the discovery that the assistant attorney general for his department was beyond the reach of department reorganization. This officer draws a salary of $4,000 a year. He is well qualified for the duties. His name is John L. Thomas and he comes from Missouri.

In the distribution of patronage four years ago this assistant attorney generalship was the best departmental position bestowed upon that state. The appointee had been on the bench and was regarded as one of the leading lawyers of his section. He was appointed because he was a Democrat and had the necessary legal experience for the place. By a recent extension of the civil service Judge Thomas has been brought under the protection of the merit system. He can be discharged for inefficiency, but he is not inefficient. If he should be discharged his successor would be selected as the result of an examination held by the civil service commission. The only choice the postmaster general could exercise would be in the three names certified to him by the commission.

The fact that Judge Thomas was a sound money Democrat in the recent campaign and did some vigorous writing in condemnation of the course of his party in Missouri helps to reconcile the administration to his retention. But it was a great surprise to Mr. Gary to discover that this $4,000 place is beyond his control.

Gage Likewise Surprised.

Civil service surprises are not confined to one department. Every member of the Cabinet is having unpleasant experiences. Mr. Gage is astonished to find that he can not select the man to fill the important post as director of the bureau of engraving and printing. This is the place held by Mr. Meredith, of Chicago, under the Harrison administration. It pays $4,500 a year. Usually it has been held for a consolation for some man who failed to get the position of public printer. Now, however, the director and his assistant, who receives $2,200 a year, are under the civil service. If Mr. Gage wishes a new director of the bureau or a new assistant he will be obliged to go to the civil service commission and take one of the three persons submitted to him after a public examination.

There are two engravers in the bureau who receive $6,000 each. They are now under the civil service, and when a vacancy occurs it will have to be filled by competitive examination. The secretary of the Treasury will have nothing to do with the makers of money, but must take such persons as the merit system gives him for this very delicate and responsible part of the public business.

Alger Has Nothing.

The secretary of War has upon his hands 3,000 applications for offices. He brought with him to Washington a young man, his private secretary, whom he desired to give a place near him in the War department, and could find nothing. If he retains the service of his former private secretary he must pay him out of his own pocket. There is absolutely no patronage in the department. In order to make the situation plain the secretary has had a printed form prepared, which will be sent to all applicants for places in his department. This form reads:

"Respectfully returned to the writer. The place mentioned in the within communication is now embraced in the classified service, and no appointment can be made thereto except upon examination and certification by the civil service commission, to whom you are referred."

Cleveland's Extensions.

Congressmen and office-seekers are alike at sea. The former endorse and the latter apply for places which four years ago were open to Democrats, only to learn to their discomfiture that the civil service has taken them in. During the last administration orders extending the civil service doubled the number that were formerly protected. When Mr. Cleveland went out of office the civil service had been enlarged so that it included 87,107 offices. Of these nearly 45,000 places which were open to Democrats in March, 1893, were closed to Republicans in March, 1897.

Mr. Cleveland extended the protection of the classified service May 11, 1894, to assistant teachers in the Indian service, and May 28 meat inspectors in the bureau of animal industry were so included. On November 12, 1894, messengers and watchmen in the departments at Washington were included, as well as employes in custom houses having as many as twenty employes, and at the same time the outside customs classification was extended so as to bring within it all employes except mere laborers, without regard to compensation, and a large number in the postal service was added to the competitive list. November 17 steamboat clerks and transfer clerks in the railway mail service were brought under the rules, and December 12 the classification was extended over the internal revenue. The superintendents of postoffice stations at which carriers are employed were put in the classified class and January 3, 1895, and March 4 of the same year the classification was extended to the census division of the interior department, and the 24th of the following May all places in the department of agriculture not previously classified were so included. Employes of the government printing office were taken under the wing of the classified service June 13, and July 15 the clerical force in the various pension agencies were likewise favored. Indian agencies and school employes were included March 20, 1894, and by the same orders of May 6, 1896, the classification was extended so practically the entire executive civil service. This order may be said to include every place to which the act of 1883 applied, excepting fourth-class postmasters and minor positions specifically excluded.

If he wanted to do so, President McKinley could make but little further extension of the civil service. The work is done. The fourth-class postmasters constitutes about all that are left to whom the law might be applied.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The Part of Cleveland's Work That Will Live After Him.

In one sphere of influence, at least, the masterfulness of Cleveland has been of unalloyed benefit to the country, and that is in its relations to the reform of the public service. Fully half the offices now in the classified service have been placed there by his official act, and he has applied the competitive system so comprehensively that outside of the fourth-class postmasters, there are comparatively few offices left to classify. This is the part of Cleveland's work which will, most visibly, live after him, and it is the part which is destined to encounter the most bitter assaults. In the course of the next six months people will begin to realize more clearly what the extent of the benefit is which President Cleveland has conferred on the public service, and how far-reaching its political effects are likely to be. The politicians will fully understand, too, how near the spoils system has been brought to extinction, and of what a very large part of their occupation they have been deprived. The memory of the outgoing president will be kept green by the execrations of the office-seekers, and the character and resolution of the President will be gauged by his readiness to stand by the merit system to which the last four years have given so wide an extension. This part, at least of Cleveland's work will be an issue long after he has become a private citizen, and the purity of American politics, no less than the efficiency of the government service, will be declared to owe more to him than to any President of our generation.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Quelled.

He used to talk fight with great ardor,
His defis grew fiercer and harder,
But now he's so meek
You can scarce hear him speak
Since they have passed that bill out in Nevada.

—Indianapolis Journal.

Young men or old should not fail to read Thos. Slater's offer on page 4.

SOMETHING WRONG.

Tom—"I've no taste for liquor any more."
Dick—"When did you lose your palate?"

CURRENT EVENTS.

The first treasurer of Rush county, Kansas, is said to have received $1,500 for taking out of $500.

The acreage of land in Georgia has decreased from 2,500,000 to 2,000,000, as indicated by the tax returns.

Two preachers will be pitted against each other in the legislative race in Pike county, Kentucky, next fall.

Skates that are locked on the foot by pressing the heel of the shoe into the heel-plate of the skate have just been patented.

One of the latest designs in incandescent lamps is formed by placing the wire between two sheets of glass set in a flat frame.

It rains on an average of 208 days in the year in Ireland, about 150 in England, at Kazan about 90 days and in Siberia only 56 days.

One firm in Macon, Ga., sold 2,000 mules last year, and it is estimated that the total sales for the year in the city came up to 5,000 head.

Hamburg leads the cities of Germany in the extent of its electric street car service. It has 340 motors, while Berlin, which comes next, has only 114.

The authorities of the Dominion of Canada have presented the Hawaiian government with 50,000 young salmon to be placed in the rivers of the Hawaiian Islands.

Frenchmen often put their family name in the middle, and then their mother's wife's name. Thus Albert Mayer calls himself Albert Mayer May, "May" was his wife's name.

Indianapolis is the first city to decide to completely surround itself with a system of parks. The first appropriation is $500,000, and the plan requires a gradual expenditure of $5,000,000.

Bones of soldiers who were buried at Clarksville, Tenn., when the female academy at that place was used as a hospital during the war, were uncovered by a recent landslide back of the building.

The Guildhall library in London has refused to accept a bust of the late Joseph Whitaker, whose "Almanac" is thought by some to be one of the most useful books ever printed.

R. Hinton Perry is putting the finishing touches to the fountain for the congressional library at Washington. Neptune is the central figure, and about him are arranged disporting mermaids.

Recent men cashiers of several Minneapolis establishments have been replaced by women, and the question has led to a discussion as to whether women are more trustworthy than men.

Wildcats are extremely variable in size, some kinds being no more than two feet in length, while others are five. The smaller varieties of wildcats are about the size of the domestic variety.

The bronze medallion of James Russell Lowell, which was presented to the library of Harvard University a year ago by the Groller club, of Boston, has been placed in the reading room in Gore Hall.

An apparently unusual ferocity is exhibited by the coyotes throughout Colorado, and they show unmistakable signs of hydrophobia. Several dogs recently bitten by them have died with all the symptoms of that disease.

The average size of the kangaroo is from three to four feet in height. Specimens from six to seven feet are frequently met with on the Australian plains. A kangaroo has been known to make a leap of thirty feet.

Arizona ants have been for nearly a month felicitating themselves upon their climate, birds having been reported as building their nests on January 19 at Safford, and buds having begun to swell soon afterward.

Arrangements are being made to draw off the water in Lake Erie, which is to Ohio a reservoir, the largest artificial body of water in the United States, covering nearly 20,000 acres, and developing it into oil territory, as it is surrounded by oil wells.

The German Emperor is the latest recruit to the royal army of cyclists. Her majesty is desirous of becoming small by degrees and beautifully less, as the emperor has a great objection to portliness, and, by her doctor's advice, she has taken to cycling as the best preventive against obesity.

They are introducing office girls in Chicago and those who have them in their employ are well pleased with them. They say that the office girl is superior to the office boy in many particulars. In the first place she does not smoke cigarettes, and she does not whistle. As a rule, she has absolutely no taste for dime novels.

One of the newest inventions in chalk line holders is a spool on which the line is held, composed of two sections, one sliding into the other and being forced apart by a receptacle to hold powdered chalk, the line passing through the chalk reservoir as it is wound, thus do

A dangerous march,

has been the experience of every veteran. But many a man who has walked out of the war, thinking the days of the dangerous march were over, has found a more dangerous March before him with every season. And many a veteran, who escaped the stab of the bayonet has gone down before the keen March wind. For all alike, March, with its wild and windy prelude of the spring is the most trying month of the year. "Peace hath her victories" and her veterans. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the **veteran sarsaparilla,** has strengthened armies of men and women for the dangerous March. The soldiers who fall by the wayside on the march, like the men and women that droop and fail with every March of every year, are those that are feeble, ill-nourished, and run down. **Ayer's Sarsaparilla** strengthens the system, builds up the body, purifies the blood, and so enables the enfeebled person to resist the strain that spring puts upon the system. **March, April, May,** the spring months when the blood should be purified, the gross conditions that follow the heavy clothing, rich food, and close rooms of winter purged away, and the system be strengthened for the strain and stress of summer toil. For this there is no medicine that can equal the veteran remedy, Ayer's Sarsaparilla. You can trust the veteran. He has fought and won. You know all about him; know just what he will do in emergency or under fire. One veteran in a crisis of battle is worth a hundred untried men—just because you can put confidence in him. He never fails except when asked for more than man can do. What's true of the veteran soldier is true of the **veteran sarsaparilla,**—**Ayer's,** you can trust it. It has been proved. It claims nothing beyond its strength. It never fails to do what it claims. For this reason, no substitute should be accepted in place of Ayer's. Substitutes are swindles. To accept a substitute for Ayer's Sarsaparilla is like trading good United States greenbacks for the check of an unknown man. The check *may* be good. The greenbacks *must* be good. The wise man runs no risk; he holds on to the greenbacks. A remedy sold under the claim "as good as Ayer's," is a palpable fraud. Any remedy as good as Ayer's can stand alone; can rest on its own record as does **Ayer's Sarsaparilla.** Remember, that "as good as Ayer's" means imitation sarsaparilla. Others imitate the remedy. They can't imitate the record of **half a century of cures.** Ask for Ayer's Sarsaparilla,—the only sarsaparilla honored with a medal and diploma at the World's Fair of '93—and see that you get it.

VETERANS.

In the battle of the blood against disease trust only the veteran remedy **Ayer's Sarsaparilla.**

THE LOGAN STATUE.

At the unveiling of the great equestrian statue by St. Gaudens of General John A. Logan, at Lake Front Park, Chicago, on the 22nd of July next, the survivors of the famous 103 members of the Illinois legislature who stood together for sixteen weeks until the deadlock was broken and General Logan was elected United States senator will be present. These men have formed an association, of which Senator William E. Mason, who took an important part in that famous senatorial fight, is president, and he and Senator Cullom, who was Senator Logan's colleague in the senate, will be two of those no will deliver addresses. All of the veterans who wear the miniature "Black Knapsack," to show that they fought under the "Black Eagle of Illinois," will be special guests of honor on that ocasion, and it is designed to give the event a national as well as a state and local importance by having distinguished men from all parts of the country participate in the ceremonies.

The statue is a noble one, and was provided by act of the legislature. It is full of life, and represents General Logan, hatless, seated on a horse, which paws at the ground impatiently, while his rider with difficulty restrains him from plunging forward. Mrs. Logan selected a very appropriate date for the unveiling, it being the anniversary of the day when General Logan took command of McPherson's corps before Atlanta, after the death of General McPherson. Logan was undoubtedly the most successful of the volunteer officers in the Union army who attained the high rank of Major General and the command of an army corps.

TOADS FOR POLICEMEN.

Toads are regular articles of trade in the markets of Paris, gardeners buying them by the dozen for insect hunters. They are said to be the best policemen that can be put into hot-beds and cold frames, if touring everything in the shape of worms and insects, from the smallest green fly to the largest cut-worm and May-beetle. The little tree toads are quite as valuable, leading interesting lives in the branches of trees and shrubs, singing when the sun shines, croaking dismally in cloudy weather, but always attending to business at night.

Tree toads live upon caterpillars, worms and various stinging insects which attack trees. The flies which lay their eggs under the bark of trees are their special prey and they are wonderfully quick and clever in catching them. Orchards where tree toads are plentiful are nearly always free comparatively speaking, from noxious insects and it is suggested that city shade and ornamental trees could be protected in no better way than by turning thousands of tree toads loose among them every spring.

The common hop-toad feeds upon worms and insects of every kind, but will never touch anything that is dead and never even attacks an insect when it is quiet. The creature must be caught on the wing or not at all. Toads will eat cabbage worms and are not at all above making a meal off the repulsive Colorado potato beetle.

PATENTS.

Patents PATTISON & NESBIT Wash, D.C. Advice as to patent ability and Inventors' Guide free. Mention BLADE.

PATENTS H. W. T. JENNER, Patent Attorney and Mechanical Expert, 625 F. Street, Washington, D. C. Established 1856. I report as to patentability and the exact cost of a patent free of charge. Send for circular.

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PATENT. IT.
Write for free book on Patent, with Prize offer $250 and list of inventions wanted, to ASSOCIATION AMERICAN INVENTORS, Philadelphia, Pa.

RARE COINS WANTED,
and big premiums paid. Our coin books, giving all dates, etc., and prices paid, mailed for 10c. All collectors should have it. E. C. Dettner, Napoleon, O.

WANTED—Agents to sell teas by our splendid new system; excellent profits; agents clear $20 weekly with ease; a rare money making chance; write at once, before it is too late. PARAGUAY TEA COMPANY, LYNN, MASS.

GRAY'S MORPHINE SUBSTITUTE
Used either hypodermically or by the mouth, gives the same result as morphine but without any bad after effects. Sold by all druggists at about one-third the price of morphine, or sent direct. SAMPLE FREE. BYRON DRUG CO., Lima, O.

EARN A BICYCLE
600 Second Hand Wheels. All Makes. Good as new $5 to $15. New High Grade '96 models, fully guaranteed $11 to $18. *Special Clearing Sale.* Shipped anywhere on approval.
We will give one agent in each town free use of sample wheel to introduce them. Our reputation is well known throughout the country. Write at once for our special offer.
B. O. MEAD & PRENTISS, Chicago, Ill.

The BLADDER AND KIDNEYS.
Disorder of these important organs causes **Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, Dropsy,** etc. But one **Sure Cure** has been found, and that **Cure** is the lately discovered **Mayr-Mava** shrub. This wonderful botanic discovery has cured 30,000 cases in two years. It costs you absolutely nothing to try its power, a large case will be sent to you by mail **Free,** if you address The **Church Kidney Cure Co.,** 44 Fourth Avenue, **New York.**

$3.75 GENTS OR LADIES SIZE **14 KARAT GOLD PLATE.**
CUT THIS OUT and send it to us with your name and address and we will send you this beautiful gold finished watch, by express for examination. You examine it at the express office, and if you think it a bargain pay our sample price $3.75 and express charges and it is yours. It is a stemwinder, elegantly engraved and equal in appearance to agenuine solid gold watch. A guarantee and beautiful gold plate chain and charm sent free with every watch; write today as this may not appear again; mention whether you want gents' or ladies' size.
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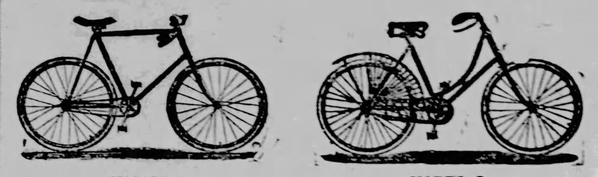

MODEL 1. MODEL 2.

TOLEDO BLADE BICYCLE.

Shipped to any part of the United States by freight, and the Weekly Blade one year to any address, ordered for

only... $45.00

Last year we sold all the Toledo Blade bicycles we contracted for, and every buyer was perfectly satisfied with his bargain. Toledo is the bicycle manufacturing center of the United States. It has more bicycle factories than any other city in the world. It also is celebrated for having the most widely circulated weekly newspaper in the United States—the Weekly Blade. Hence it is in accord with the fitness of things that we should combine an excellent bicycle with our subscription offers.

THE TOLEDO BLADE BICYCLE,

pattern of 1897, is a STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS machine, built on honor, adapted for all uses and for all roads, that we can offer to our readers FOR CASH, at a price considerably less than even cheap machines are sold.

This wheel is built to retail for $85, and we guarantee it to be fully equal to any wheel that retails for even $100. The cheapest bicycle now sold in the United States and built to sell in competition with good wheels, retails for $50 to $65; but you must remember that such wheels are not worth any more than this price. They are not durable, nor adapted for ordinary country roads.

We want it distinctly understood that the wheel we now offer is actually worth from $85 to $100, and can not be bought any place else in the world, except of the Toledo Blade, for less than $85. But we will sell it for

$45.00 CASH.

The wheels will be shipped by freight to the address given, the purchaser paying freight on receipt of wheel. This will be but a small sum, as the crated wheel is light.

Above we give small cuts of the wheel, both ladies' and gentlemen's pattern, which give a fair idea of its appearance.

THE 1897 PATTERN.

Both patterns of the Blade bicycle are a decided improvement over that of last year. Here are the specifications of both. Model 1 is the gentleman's wheel, Model 2 the lady's wheel.

The frame is of the latest large tube pattern, either diamond or drop, made of Elwood seamless cold-drawn steel tubing, reinforced throughout. The regular height of Model 1 is 24½ inches; 26 inches when so ordered. Regular height of Model 2, 21 inches; 23 inches when so ordered.

The front forks are much improved over last year. They are reinforced at both top and tips, with a solid drop-forged crown, strong, light and durable. The crown is nickel-plated.

The regular wheels are 28-inch of both models, but we will furnish Model 2 with 26-inch wheels when so ordered. The rims are Plymouth interlocking, steel rim. The spokes are tangent double-swaged of cold-drawn steel piano wire, rolled thread, turned brass nipples. The hubs are the latest barrel pattern, turned from solid bar steel, ball oil cup. We furnish either Morgan & Wright quick repair tires, or Vim single tube.

In the sprockets we have a decided improvement in making the rear one detachable. Both are of drop-forged steel; they are simple, strong, light and durable.

The regular gear is 68 for Model 1 and 60 for Model 2, but we will furnish higher or lower, if desired.

The pedals are the King, combination rat-trap and rubber.

We furnish regular handles of medium drop, but will furnish, if desired, upturned, ram's-horn, or of reversible wood; furnished with the best grips, English pattern.

The chain is Humber pattern, with cold center and hardened rivets.

Our new crank is splendid. It is made of special spring steel, hardened, threaded for pedal and keyed to the axle with a tapering key, the most reliable method known; the crank has 6-inch throw.

The wheel base is 42½ inches; Model 1 weighs 28 pounds, Model 2, 24 pounds.

The saddle is the latest design. On Model 1 it is hygienic, open top, laced and padded; on Model 2 it has hygienic padded top, special design for this wheel.

The finish is glossy jet-black enamel or of dark maroon, when ordered, striped with gold; all the bright parts first fully polished, heavily copper-plated and then nickeled.

The bearings are entirely dust-proof, highly polished, and ground perfectly true. The balls are standard size, 1/3 to each machine, 3-16 and ¼ inches in diameter.

Wood guards are furnished regularly, but we will furnish steel if ordered.

The tool bag contains a full set of tools, including repair kit.

We supply but this one grade of wheel, it being the very best we can get. But we will supply

BOTH GENTS' AND LADIES' WHEELS,

The price being exactly the same for either.

HOW TO ORDER:

Inclose to us a postoffice money order, or draft on New York or Chicago or express money order, for $45. Give the name and postoffice address of the party to whom we shall send the Weekly Blade one year, and also the name and postoffice address of the person to whom the wheel is to go, and be VERY CAREFUL to also give the name of the railroad station to which the wheel is to be sent.

State particularly whether you want Model 1 or Model 2. It is unnecessary to give specifications regarding sizes, as they are built of regulation standard size, suitable for any person.

These wheels are now all ready for prompt shipment, and if the order is sent to us, detailed as above, the wheel will be shipped within three days from the time we get the order. Address

THE BLADE,
Toledo, Ohio.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS.

Splendid Offer to Lady Readers of THE BLADE.

ETON JACKET NO. 7023 AND BICYCLE SKIRT NO. 7018.

Utility and grace are combined in this correct dress for the wheel, the material selected being dust-brown cheviot. It is neatly finished with machine stitching, braided ornaments and buttons, the lapels and collar being faced with leaf-brown faced cloth. The stylish short jacket in Eton effect reaches to the top of belt, the front being shaped in pointed outline. The shaping is accomplished by single bust darts in front and wide backs fitted by a center seam. The garment closes in double-breasted style at the left side and is decorated by handsome braided brandebourgs. The fronts are reversed above the closing to form coat lapels that meet the rolling collar in notches. A chemisette with bow tie is worn at the neck. A broad belt encircles the waist.

The one-seamed sleeves, of moderate dimensions, have the fullness at the top arranged in box-plaits and the wrists are decorated with braided ornaments corresponding with those used on front of jackets.

7023—Ladies' Double-Breasted Eton Jacket.
7018—Ladies' Bicycle Skirt.

The graceful skirt, of becoming length, is attached to the knickerbockers, a feature that will not fail to recommend it to the fair cyclist, both from the standpoint of comfort and appearance. At the center-front and back deep plaits are laid which meet and are flatly pressed so as to be hardly noticeable when standing, and when mounted give ample room for the free action of the limbs, thus preventing the unbecoming scant appearance of skirt frequently seen. The front gore may be buttoned on or omitted if not desired. The knickerbockers are fitted to the waist by small darts, and the top of both knickerbockers and skirt is finished by one narrow band.

Durable fabrics in neutral colors and of medium weight are most desirable for making suits of this description. One jaunty costume designed for the coming season is an exact counterpart of our model, and is made of tobacco-brown cheviot, including a smart shirt waist of plaid taffeta silk, so that the jacket may be removed in milder weather.

To make this Eton jacket for a lady in the medium size will require 2¾ yards of 44-inch wide material. To make the skirt and knickerbockers will require 6¼ yards of the same width goods. The jacket pattern, No. 7023, is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42-inch bust measure. The skirt pattern, No. 7018, is cut in sizes for a 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30-inch waist measure.

MISSES' JACKET NO. 7012 AND SKIRT NO. 6989.

This useful and becoming costume suitable for a young miss is made of English cheviot in a pretty shade of tobacco-brown. The jacket, of fashionable length, has a close adjustment at the back which is fitted with the usual number of seams. Coat laps are arranged below the center seam and coat plaits at the side-back seams. The loose-fitting fronts lap widely in double-breasted style, the closing being effected on the left side by handsome braided ornaments. The upper edges of the fronts are reversed to form pointed lapels that meet the rolling coat collar, which is shaped by a center seam. The sleeves, shaped by single seams, have the fulness at the top disposed in gathering, the wrist being neatly finished by a single row of machine stitching. Pocket-laps cover openings to useful side pockets and the jacket is completed with a neat tailor finish of machine stitching.

7012—Misses' Jacket.
6989—Misses' Four-Gore Skirt.

The skirt, presenting one of the newest models, fits smoothly at the top, in front, and on the sides, with the fulness of the back breadth falling in graceful folds from gathers at the top. The shaping is accomplished by a narrow front gore, two side gores, which display the slightest suggestion of a flare, and a straight back beneath. The placket is finished in the center-back and the top is completed by a narrow belt. Broadcloth, cheviot, serge and tweed are among the fashionable materials for making suits of this description, which may be decorated with braid or simply finished by machine stitching.

To make this jacket for a miss of fourteen years will require two yards of forty-four-inch wide material. The skirt will require three yards of the same width goods. The jacket pattern, No. 7012, is cut in sizes for misses of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years. The skirt pattern, No. 6989, is also cut in sizes for misses of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years.

MISSES' WAIST NO. 7014.

Two materials are employed for this stylish waist, consisting of figured grenadine and liberty satin showing red in a rich purplish tint (a color that will be very much in evidence the coming season.) The pattern is arranged with a fitted lining front covered in the upper part with a yoke of satin which extends to the waist in plastron form. The contrasting material on each side of the center-front is collected in gathers and decorated above with three bands of insertion that are included in the arm's-eye, and finish at the front edge under handsome metal buttons. The fulness at the waist line is confined beneath a wrinkled girdle of the satin which is prettily bowed at the centre-back. The back is smooth-fitting across the shoulders, with the additional fulness at the waist line laid in close over-lapping plaits on each side of the center, where the closing is effected with buttons and button-holes. The coat-shaped sleeves of satin are decorated at the wrists with three bands of insertion and ornamented buttons, frills of volants standing out stylishly from the top. A close standing band of material with insertion above headed by a narrow frill of lace completes the neck.

7014—Misses' Waist.

The model which is a charming one can be carried out in all manner of fabrics, embracing melange, canvas, Burlap wool suitings, etamines or crap-d'-ete, in conjunction with silk, satin, peau-de-sole or plain satin-faced cloth.

To makes this waist for a miss of fourteen years will require two and seven-eighths yards of forty-four-inch wide material. The pattern, No. 7014, is cut in sizes for misses or twelve, fourteen and sixteen years.

NO. 7016—BOYS' MILITARY CAPE WITH HOOD.

This illustrates a jaunty military cape designed for boys ranging from four to ten years. In this instance the material chosen was cloth in the regulation military blue appropriately finished with machine stitching. It is of circular shaping, fitting smoothly at the top and widening perceptibly toward the lower edge, and is of sufficient length to prove amply protective to the little wearer.

The closing is effected through the center-front with gilt buttons, the garment may be worn closed the entire length or simply fastened at the throat and thrown back carelessly, disclosing the bright-hued lining of red cloth. At the neck is a deep rolling collar and a hood which extends over the front of the cape.

This style of garment is universally becoming to small boys, being particularly attractive when developed in either dark postman's or cadet-blue, with gilt buttons entering into the decoration and accompanied by a smart military cap.

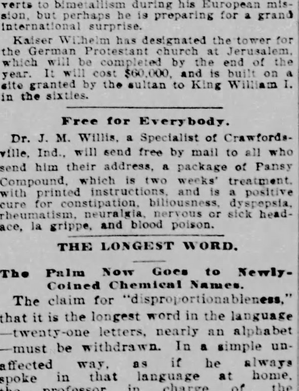
To make this cape for a boy of eight years will require one and one-half yards of blue cloth fifty-four inches wide, and one and one-eighth yards of red cloth of the same width. The pattern, No. 7016, is cut in sizes for boys of our, six, eight, ten and twelve years.

7016—Boys' Military Cape with Hood.

NO. 7004—MISSES' SKIRT.

China silk in a dainty pattern was the material selected for this stylish skirt which is particularly adapted to summer fabrics. It is cut perfectly straight and has the front and sides laid in small tucks which extend from the waist to a trifle below the hips, the back being closely gathered with a narrow belt finishing the top. The placket is at the center-back, the closely laid gathers concealing the opening. The skirt can be made upon a foundation, or a slip skirt of colored silk or percaline, or simply worn over a petticoat of white lawn or cambric. The mode is adopted to sheer materials, including dimity in washable fabrics, batiste, percale and gingham, while for more dressy occasions Swiss, organdy, grenadine silk in foulards, China, India and peau-de-sole are frequently employed. The lower edge of the skirt, being straight, admits of a wide hem or bands of insertion as decoration. Tiny lace-edged ruffles are equally as effective, or ribbon applied in bands or quilled.

To make this skirt for a miss of fourteen


7004—Misses' Skirt.

years will require four yards of thirty-six-inch wide material. The pattern, No. 7004, is cut in sizes for misses of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years.

READ THE OFFER:

The above pattern or patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. We will fill orders from any person, whether a regular or occasional reader of The Blade. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose ten cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). State both title and number of pattern. No coupon required. Full description and directions as to the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

SPEAKING OF PEOPLE.

Senator Pritchard has a son between six and seven years of age whose name is William McKinley.

Night sessions will have no terrors for Senator-elect Mason, of Illinois. He has brought up seven babies.

Senator Wolcott is not reporting many converts to bimetallism during his European mission, but perhaps he is preparing for a grand international surprise.

Kaiser Wilhelm has designated the tower for the German Protestant church at Jerusalem, which will be completed by the end of the year. It will cost $60,000, and is built on a site granted by the sultan to King William I. in the sixties.

Free for Everybody.

Dr. J. M. Willis, a Specialist of Crawfordsville, Ind., will send free by mail to all who send him their address, a package of Pansy Compound, which is two weeks' treatment, with printed instructions, and is a positive cure for constipation, biliousness, dyspepsia, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervous or sick headache, la grippe, and blood poison.

THE LONGEST WORD.

The Palm Now Goes to Newly-Coined Chemical Names.

The claim for "disproportionableness," that it is the longest word in the language—twenty-one letters, nearly an alphabet—must be withdrawn. In a simple unaffected way, as if he always spoke in that language at home, the professor in charge of the Jefferson Laboratory at Cambridge reports to the president of Harvard University (see annual report, etc.) "Professor Jackson, with Mr. M. H. Ittner, finished the work upon parabromdimetanitrotoluol, which was begun last year and continued with Mr. H. A. Torrey the study of the derivatives of chloranil, obtaining results which throw some light upon the constitution of the oxide of dibenzoyldichlordimethoxyquinone." We are not personally acquainted with the thing last mentioned, but would risk saying, off-hand, that it can stand a good deal of light.

One Deliberation.

Emma—And, Charlie, dear, would you have really shot yourself if I had refused you?

Charlie—Indeed I would! I had already sent to four houses for price lists of revolvers.—Fliegende Blaetter.

CORNELIUS N. BLISS.

Cornelius N. Bliss, who has accepted the tender of the portfolio of secretary of Interior in Mr. McKinley's cabinet, was born in Fall River, Mass., about 60 years ago.

At the age of 20 he entered his father's commission house in New Orleans, and in 1848 went into business in Boston. As a partner of John and Eben Wright & Co., he established a branch store in New York, which was placed under his management, and soon became the big end of the business. To-day it is recognized as one of the leading dry goods firms. Mr. Bliss was one of the founders of the New York Chamber of Commerce. He interested himself in the banking business, and is at present in the directories of the many financial institutions. In 1859 he married Miss Plummer.

Mr. Bliss has always been a Republican in politics, but never held any political office except the honorary one of member of the Pan-American conference. He was president of the Protective Tariff League during a long time, and was chairman of the Republican state conventions in 1878 and 1888. He declined the nomination for governor in 1885, when Ira Davenport was nominated, and when his friends were urging the nomination of him in 1891, he went to Europe. He was chairman of the Business Men's committee which tried to nominate Arthur in 1884, and was chairman of the famous committee of 30, in 1893. Although not in complete harmony with the state Republican commission, Mr. Bliss has financiered the Republican national committee in the last two Presidential campaigns. His acceptance of the position of treasurer of the committee last year was at the express and urgent solicitation of Major McKinley and Mr. Hanna. Once he undertook the work, he entered upon it in a most thorough manner. One of his rules was that no obligations should be incurred unless the money was in hand to meet it. This was adhered to throughout the campaign, and at the close of each night checks were mailed for every bill presented and audited. The result of this was that when election night came around, and many Republicans expected to be asked to contribute toward the expenses, they were amazed to be told that the Republican campaign had been closed with a surplus in the treasury.

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The Most Stupendous Work of the Kind Ever Attempted.

United States Consul Monaghan, who is stationed at Chemnitz, Germany, has sent to the State department a report in which he says that the completion of the trans-Siberian railway by Russia will be an event not less important than the cutting of the Suez canal. Five thousand miles of rails have already been laid at a cost of 35,000,000 roubles (about $262,000,000), and it is said that by next year trains will be running to the Amoor river. Thence passengers and freight will be sent by fast steamship to Chaborowka; thence over the South Russian section of the Siberian railway is 18 hours to Vladivostok, making the entire distance from London to the most important harbors of the Japan sea a matter of less than eighteen days. Before the year 1901 Russia will have laid rails across Manchuria, thus saving 300 miles, and it is hoped eventually to reduce the time of the entire trip across Siberia to nine days—New York Evening Sun.

Might Be Called That.

"Did he act upon my suggestion?" demanded the king in the drama. "Speak! Tell me the worst!"

"Well I suppose you might call it acting," faltered he who bore the tidings. Stepping to the front of the stage, they presented their athletic specialty, to which the tragedy of the evening was merely preliminary.—Detroit Tribune.

Hood's Pills
Restore full, regular action of the bowels, do not irritate or inflame, but leave all the delicate digestive organism in perfect condition. All druggists. 25c. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

HARVEST ALL THE YEAR.

Wheat Crop Always Being Gathered In Somewhere on the Earth.

"The wheat crop is always being harvested somewhere," said a man on the Chicago board of trade.

"Just now, while the American farmer is not thinking of wheat, the crop of Australia, Chile and the Argentine Republic is being put on the market. In February and March the fields of upper Egypt and those of India are harvested. That of lower Egypt, which is irrigated by the overflowing of the Nile, is harvested in April, while Syria, Cyprus, Persia and Asia Minor also gather crops during that month. Cuba's wheat will also be gathered in April.

"Texas is the first of the states to send wheat to the market. This it does during May, at the same time that the fields of Algeria, Central Asia, China, Japan and Morocco are making their yields. In June those of California, Oregon, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Kansas, Arkansas, Utah, Colorado, Missouri, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the south of France, are harvested. July sees the crops in the other American states and all except the northern-most part of Europe harvested. Russia then begins to harvest her grain, more being harvested in August, when Manitoba, lower Canada, North Dakota, and the northern-most countries of Europe, are the scenes of the harvest. Sweden, Norway and northern Russia are the only wheat fields covered with the golden grain in September and October. But just as these crops are gathered the crops in Peru and South Africa are ready, and in December New South Wales gathers her harvest."

Every man should read the offer of Thos. Slater on page 5 of this paper.

Publishers' Column.

WALTHAM AND ELGIN WATCHES.

Some months ago, after supplying our readers several thousand good watches at wholesale prices, we discontinued the offer. For a few weeks we shall offer the following small list much below our former prices, owing to reduction of certain grades by the manufacturer. A couple will be recognized as standard watches of our former list. The others are good grades at reduced prices.

OFFER NO. 8.—BLADE SPECIAL.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin Works—Be Sure to Name Your Choice When You Order.

A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $20, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number which has all the appearances and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. Time and money have been spent in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The life of the case are the usual thickness and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as solid, and warranted for 20 years. Every part which is subjected to wear, such as the rim, thumb piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county commissioners, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so thin and convenient in form that it will ever make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended to school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as described, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $20.

No. 333.

No. 833 is one of the finest gentlemen's watches we have ever offered. The movements, either Waltham or Elgin, are full jeweled, and are guaranteed perfect timekeepers. The case is of the finest gold-filled and guaranteed to wear the same as solid gold for 15 years. The price of this watch in open face is $13.50, and in hunting case, $16.50.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $20.00.

No. 15.—The works are manufactured at Waltham or Elgin. They are made of the finest material, carefully selected. The jewels are all cut and polished in Europe, where secret processes are handed down from generation to generation. The dial is made of the finest porcelain, and the hands of fine steel, pierced steel. The case is solid 14k. United States assay, handsomely engraved. This watch is a stem winder and setter and hunting case. We will send this watch, delivery guaranteed, for $20.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $15.00.

No. 16.—The works of No. 16 are the same as No. 15, but the case is gold filled, 14k, guaranteed to wear just like solid gold for 20 years. The joints, plugs and parts exposed to unusual wear are of gold. This is a hunting case, and is handsomely engraved. Sent by registered mail, delivery guaranteed, for $15.

Gentlemen's Watches.

No. 200.—Solid gold 40 dwt. hunting case with Elgin or Waltham works, 18 size, 14 karat, and guaranteed timekeeper. Sent by registered mail to any part of the United States for $33.50.

No. 201.—Gold filled Elgin or Waltham watch, 18 size, open face case, guaranteed for 15 years. The movement or works contain seven jewels. This watch will be sent to any subscriber of The Blade in perfect order, delivery guaranteed, for $10.

Address all orders:

THE BLADE,
Toledo, Ohio.

FAMOUS BATTLE PICTURES.

These pictures are of a high grade, chromo colors, large size (22x28), reproduced from the original oil paintings with wonderful accuracy. We propose to give one picture free, postpaid, by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year. If your time expires soon, you can obtain a picture when you renew. If your time expires some time hence, and you want a picture now, send a dollar, and let us extend your time a year ahead from date of expiration. Or, get us a new subscriber and we will enter the new name for Blade one year, and send the picture to the remitter, if so directed. However, we are confident those who obtain one picture, will want several more, or perhaps all of them. You can obtain them one at a time by sending us new dollar subscribers. Try one of them when you renew.

NOTICE, however, that the above offer is only to those who send us $1 for subscription or renewal after this date.

Here is the list; make your selection from it:

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
Battle of Five Forks, Va.
Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.
Battle of The Wilderness, Va.
Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.
Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.
Battle of Antietam, Md.
Battle of Atlanta, Ga.
Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.
Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.
Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Resaca, Ga.
Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn.
Battle of Olustee, Fla.
Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.
Battle of Bunker Hill.
Battle of Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
Battle of Bull's Run, Va.
Battle of Chancellorsville, Va.
Battle of Big Horn (Custer's Last Charge).
Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.
Storming of Fort Wagner, S. C.
Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C.
Battle of New Orleans, La.
Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.
Capture and death of Sitting Bull.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.
Battle of Sand River, Texas.
Assault on Fort Sanders, Tenn.
Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
Battle of Nashville, Tenn.
Battle of Corinth, Miss.
Perry's Victory on Lake Erie.
Fort Pillow Massacre, Tenn.
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.
Battle of Williamsburg, Va.
Fall of Petersburg, Va.
Battle of Opequan or Winchester, Va.

We also add a half dozen colored horse battle pictures.

Perry at the Helm.
Death of Marie La Tour.
Du Hermann's Schlacht.
Battle near Orleans.
Battle of Fontenoy.

Order by name of battle. Give plainly your address for picture as well as The Blade. Address,

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

MACAULAY'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

Five Volumes Paper Cover, Containing Over 2,200 Pages.

We offer this cheap edition of the most renowned of all historical works at a price that should place a set in the hands of every Blade reader. We will send a set, postpaid by mail, to every person who will send us only $2.50 for the Weekly Blade one year, and this work as a premium, or we will mail the five volumes without The Blade, on receipt of 80 cents. Address,

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of nickel-silver, known as triple plate, which we believe possesses all the silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish or change as solid silver from exposure to the air, and as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
1 dozen dessert spoons	2.00
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.00
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen table knives	1.00
1 dozen table knives	2.00

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPAEDIA

And the Weekly Blade One Year for Three Dollars.

The original edition of this sold at $60 per set. A reprint of the Edinburgh and London edition, with additions upon topics of special interest to American readers, and giving American statistics of population down to and including the census of 1890.

This great Encyclopaedia contains thousands upon thousands of articles, covering all subjects within the circle of human knowledge in its more than 27,000 specially prepared articles, giving pointed, practical, explicit and most interesting and instructive information both for the student and the general reader, free from ambiguous technicalities.

This is a new edition, revised in 1891, printed in clear but fine type. It comprises THIRTY small, compact volumes in paper covers, and the 30 books will weigh about 17 pounds.

READ OUR OFFER!

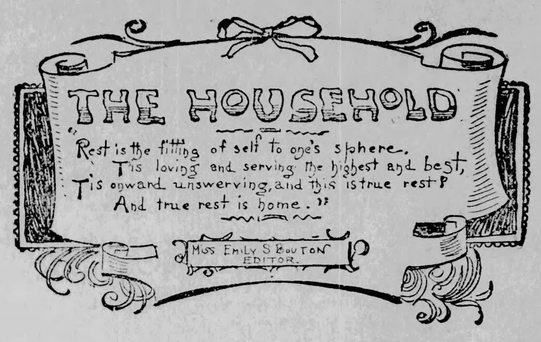
We will send a full set of this edition of Chambers' Encyclopaedia, comprising 30 volumes, and a copy of the Weekly Blade one year for THREE DOLLARS.

Or we will send the Encyclopaedia alone for $2.50.

The Encyclopaedia will be sent by mail, postage paid. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

Kalamazoo, Mich., is famous for celery. See Thos. Slater's offer on page 5.



WORTH WHILE.

'Tis easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows along like a song;
But the man worth while is the one who will smile
When everything goes dead wrong;
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praise of earth
Is the smile that comes through tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent,
When nothing tempts you to stray;
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away;
But it's only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the honor of earth
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife,
The world's highway is cumbered to-day;
They make up the items of life.
But the virtue that conquers passion,
And the sorrow that hides in a smile—
It is these that are worth the homage of earth,
For we find them but once in a while.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

WHY NOT WORK

TO MAKE A SENTIMENT WHICH WILL CALL FOR BETTER THINGS?

What Is Meant by Advancing in Life—The Different Way People Look at Things.

"You cannot change these conditions unless the sentiment of the majority of the people demand it. They have got to be educated into a desire for better things, before we can have them."

If that be your conviction, why in the name of all that is good and great, do you not go to work and help to bring about that change? Why do you put your hands in your pockets and go calmly on, allowing, with only a feeble protest—if it can be called even that—wrongs to be perpetuated without making a single effort in the way of changing the sentiment of which you complain. You cannot hide behind the assertion that a single individual can do nothing, that to attempt it would be like trying to empty the Atlantic Ocean by means of a quart measure. Every individual has an influence, greater or less in proportion to the will with which it is exerted. You have yours. Your plain duty is to help educate the public to a better understanding of what is necessary to real progress. To fold the hands in the face of a wrong is taking part in it, and helping to bring the final evil consequences.

It is true, as you say, that the real settlement of the puzzling social questions of the day depends upon the growth of a desire in the hearts of the people to reach higher conditions, and this must be the result of education. The children, who are the future men and women of the country, must be taught to think, and to think to a purpose. You can work—every man and woman can work in one way or another—to have our educational methods bettered: to have a wholesome regard for the rights of others as a practical and scientific necessity for progress, instilled, instead of a selfish competition, the final result of which will be, wide-spread suffering.

"A constant dropping wears away stone." You can be instant in season and out of season in spreading the right word—using always tact and judgment in its speaking—in presenting the high ideal, even though such presentation seems useless. It is not useless. In any case it goes out into the thought world, gathering strength there, joining similar thought currents, and producing finally the results desired. If you are a man you can work for honest men in office and honest measures. You need not sit down supinely and say that you will not have anything to do with aught so corrupt as politics. That is a selfish excuse.

Each one has a responsibility proportioned to his opportunity, and no one can shirk the responsibility by the let-alone policy without being guilty of a great wrong. At home and abroad we must think and work toward a high ideal, for that is duty.

He only is advancing in life whose heart is getting softer, whose blood warmer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace. And the men who have this life in them are the true lords and kings of the earth—they and they only.—Ruskin.

In these few words Mr. Ruskin expressed a vital truth.

As the world looks at it, people are believed to be "advancing in life," when they have acquired what they call a knowledge of human nature such as teaches them a general distrust of everybody's motives of action, and an indifference to the results, so far as others are concerned, of what will forward their own interests. Shrewd and far-seeing is the comment upon some financially successful line of business policy, which is, however, questionable, viewed under the search-light of the golden rule, or the teachings of a universal brotherhood. Suspicion of others, a readiness to accept the possibility of wrong-doing on the part of those who have hitherto been above reproach, a disbelief in the existence of unselfish action, are considered marks of wisdom that will carry a man or woman safely forward, while he who holds fast to a faith in the existence of the Divine in others whatever the outward action may be is esteemed a crank, and an almost certain failure so far as the outward life is concerned. And yet, if we look around us, we shall find that the latter is by no means always the case, for though the number be few, there are those whose hearts are "getting softer" toward the woes of their fellow men, and yet who are prosperous in a material way. And in very truth the softened heart which warms the blood with sympathy and quickens the brain to helpful action, also gives clearer judgment in the ordinary concerns of life.

To comprehend aright Mr. Ruskin's words, much depends upon what is understood as "advancing in life." If it only means to us, increase of wealth, of physical comforts and enjoyments, then, indeed, their truth may be questioned. Every day we see those around us whose utter selfishness seems the keynote of their dazzling progress in all of these directions. The man who is said to have no heart in his dealings with his fellow man often appears to succeed in all of his undertakings. The woman who calmly ignores the wishes or desires of others, more often than not, gets the best place, or the thing which is judged the most desirable wherever she may be.

If, however, "advancing in life" has a broader signification; if it means a character-growth in the right direction; a gaining of power in reaching towards higher ideals; a better realization of the needs of humanity and a growing desire to minister to them; if it means more self-control; a greater patience; a gentler judgment, a readier sacrifice of self visible day by day, then we can understand what Mr. Ruskin meant by the spirit of such entering "into living peace." It is growth in these things which makes for true advancement, that which will endure for all time and for eternity.

This is no sentimental preaching. It is practical truth, a scientific reality. Evolution from lower into a higher condition is now accepted by intelligent thinkers as the object of all Being. Having reached the self-conscious stage, further progress must be the result of individual effort. Life is said to be one long struggle. What is it for, if not to afford the opportunity for swifter growth; if not to give greater strength by the process of overcoming? In our hearts we know this, and yet we are perpetually crying out against the pricks, and wondering why we are not happier.

The trouble is we do not understand ourselves—we do not know our own natures. We live too much upon the surface of things. Not long since I was upon a steamer moving upon the Father of Waters. It was often necessary that the boat should land her cargo in the night, when an intense darkness hid the shore even from the eye of the trained pilot. Then the search light was turned on, showing the way to the landing, and showing, also, where trouble might lie. If we turned the search-light of the Higher Self upon our natures, we too, should see the right way; we should discover the shoals upon which our bark of life may be stranded for a season and our progress rendered impossible.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

OUR COZY CORNER.

THE COLD WEATHER MAKES IT PLEASANTER THAN EVER.

Keep Up Good Courage by Talking Matters Over With Love and Sympathy for All.

Again we have reached that season in the church year when we call a halt in our march through life, to rest from the weary strife that we are continually called upon to wage between what we ought to do, what we desire to do, and what we are able to do. In the Catholic church universal Lent is observed, not only by refraining from secular amusements and by fasting or abstenence, but by universal attendance upon church services for the purpose of self-examination and for the repentance that will assuredly follow such examination, if we are sincere in desiring to amend our lives in the future.

While it should not be customary with us to postpone all of our reflection and repentance till this time, and to have only a yearly settlement on account of our sins of omission and commission, it is assuredly better for us to do so once a year than not at all. Looking at it from a purely worldly point of view, we all need this season of rest and retrospection.

Physically, we are better for the abstinence that must give relief to our hard-worked digestive organs, and, as the business man and woman feel the need of a yearly settlement of their affairs, in order to know how they stand as regards profit and loss, so we all must take time, at least once a year, to know how we have gained or lost, in the more important issues of our lives.

It seems a little strange to hear people in this enlightened time, speak of keeping Lent, as merely refraining from eating certain things at certain times, and yet there are those who have no truer conception of its meaning. Such people will religiously abstain from meat on Fridays, and eat to repletion of fish. They will attend all public church services, and hasten back to their various occupations without one idea of what the service they have listened to with their ears, should mean to their inner consciousness.

Others there are—we all can think of some of these in our list of friends—whose whole life is a continual and joyful Lenten season, full of self-sacrifice and never-ending effort to make themselves more like the great Exemplar, by continually following in His footsteps, and reaching out a helping hand to all who are traveling in the same direction.

Not only that, but with gentle persuasion and practical assistance, endeavoring to help those who have become discouraged and turned aside from the right paths, to take courage and again press forward. This is the true Lenten spirit that should inspire us all.

Bonnie Burnie, one of the Merry-Go-Round girls, came in a moment on her way to see Miss Prudence, and stopped just long enough to say to the editor some very nice things about the Cozy Corner, and to leave this message for whoever might need it:

Could our friends read our heart they would find we had some secret trouble, of which no human being except ourselves knows. Yes, we all have trouble, but let us enjoy what blessings we have, rather than mourn for those which we have not, and keep our secret grievances and troubles to ourselves.

Others have troubles enough without loading them down with tales of our own trials. Give sunshine and cheer to the weary and down-trodden, rather than make their burdens heavier by telling yours.

There are some persons who are so constituted that they can listen to any tale of woe, sympathize with the sufferer and then let the whole matter pass from their minds, while another person who might hear the same story would be unable to cast aside, for hours, the depressing effect it would have on them.

While we should all be as careful as we can of the feelings of our friends in this respect, it is hardly right that we should feel denied the comfort it is to us to confide our sorrows and troubles to some sympathizing friend, nor will our friends wish us to feel so.

"It's true we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;
Let us go part of that religious way
Is better than to rest.
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid "Be holy e'en as He,"
In both let's do our best."

"Who goeth in the way which Christ has gone
Is much more sure to meet with Him than one
That traveleth by-ways;
Perhaps my God, though He be far before,
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more,
May strengthen my decays."

"Yet, Lord, instruct us how to improve our fast
By starving sin, and taking such repast
As may our faults control;
That every man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlor—banqueting the poor,
And among those, his soul."

A. H. writes a very sensible and helpful letter to the discouraged friend:

I have received many helpful thoughts from the Blade Household and will be glad if you will permit me to step quietly into the Cozy Corner and say a few words to the lady who can not enjoy the present for dread of what the future may bring.

I believe those feelings are sometimes caused by physical sickness of some kind, and that in such cases our Father understands and appreciates all the circumstances and judges us accordingly; but whatever the cause may be, they cripple our lives very much and dishonor the God we serve.

I feel sure this friend is carrying a burden which He is able and willing to carry for her if she will let Him. He never fails those who put their trust in Him, and gives us all we trust Him for.

If she will lay aside those fears and trust Him, with the full assurance that He will send nothing to her that will not be for her good in some way, she may be certain that He will verify His promise: "My grace shall be sufficient for you." We must feet that sorrow, patiently endured, is only the "needed fire to purify the silver." He is perfectly able to give us peace.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusteth in Thee."

Aurie sends the following "little talk" for the serious consideration of those who have the responsibility of the training of children:

The subject of my thoughts I will give in the motto of the Blade Temperance Legion, "Of ourselves we will be masters." How many of us can truly say we are masters of ourselves; as far as our patience and temper are concerned?

Before I was married I taught school and boarded around the most of the time. I know that the children were sometimes unjustly blamed. One little girl in particular I remember. She tried to explain to her mother, but the latter would not allow her to say a word in self-defense. The child's eyes filled with tears. Her thoughts probably were bitter ones towards her mother. If parents would think what the effect and results of their quick tempers and actions will be upon their children, would they do differently? If a parent can not control himself, how can he say anything to his children about self-control?

One day I spoke crossly to my little four-year-old boy; he looked up with his large, earnest eyes and said: "Mamma do be good." Without doubt my words cut more deeply than I intended.

I think some parents will have hard work to win back the love and respect that they have lost through years of wrong government. A man that is working for us said that he and his brother used to fight and that his father used to whip them awful hard, then added, as an after thought, "He used to get so mad." How many children can say the same thing—that their parents were so mad when they punished them. How often bitter repentance comes when it is too late. One source of trouble is want of confidence on both sides.

I hope that my poorly expressed thoughts will cause some thoughtless person to give the subject of self-control, earnest thought and prayer.

Catherine has also something to offer for the consideration of this troubled sister:

I am glad Miss Bouton brought the despondent sister into the Cozy Corner, and will hope to see answers from all of the C. C. friends to her question.

I believe there is a law, an unforseen influence that controls us, and our lives are proof of it. Who has life as they wish it? Who would fall into the "slough of despond" willingly? Now, I have a woman acquaintance who comes of sturdy, intellectual ancestors. She has had advantages, has traveled and been thrown with strangers her whole life, yet she is so diffident her embarrassment is noticeable. While she craves, and reads, a deep class of reading, yet she can't understand it. Now, I ask, is she responsible for these defects which were born in her?

She is not the only one who has seen conditions through dark glasses—I know many. I, myself, waded in that "111 stream called "Melancholy" several years, but one day a sweet, cheerful, acquaintance came along and confided to me her great big troubles, then I began to realize I was not alone, that her's were mountains to mine.

It was a consolation, and as my feet were all dry I never told her I had been in wading that stream.

An acquaintance, the mother of two boys, was always anxious for fear she would die, and leave her darlings to battle with the world. Well, she went to work, when she should have been in bed, contracted a cold from which she never recovered. After her death her elder son, 15 years old, secured a position, paying him sufficiently to support himself and brother, 10 years of age. No doubt had the mother lived, he would not have thought of getting employment.

Dear Cozy Corner friend, write again so I, who can sympathize with you, can hear from you.

"A touch of pity makes the whole world kin."

Miss M. G. W. sends a letter stating her views on the question of the responsibility of a person committing suicide. Her letter is written on both sides of the paper, making it impossible for us to use it, but her ideas are most excellent and very well expressed.

If a vacation is impossible, try rest, advises a writer on women's work. There is no special satisfaction in the tired, overworked housewife at this season to be told that she must try change of scene and moderate exercise. There is no better preventive of nervous exhaustion, we are told, than regular, unhurried muscular exercise. If we could moderate our hurry, lessen our worry and increase our open-air exercise, a large portion of nervous diseases would be abolished. But the tired housekeeper realizes only too well that it is not exercise she needs half so much as rest. For those who can not get a holiday the best substitute is an occasional day in bed. Many whose nerves are constantly strained in their daily vocation have discovered this for themselves. A Spanish merchant in Barcelona told his medical man that he always went to bed whenever he could be spared from business, and laughed at those who spent their holidays on toil-some mountains. One of the most successful working women in England, who had for many years conducted a large wholesale business, retains excellent nerves at an advanced age, owing it is said, to the habit of spending one entire day of each week in bed. If we can not avoid frequent agitation, we ought, if possible, to give the nervous system time to recover between shocks. If the idea of a whole day in bed seems absurd to the tired mother and housewife, at least determine to take half an hour's secession and rest after lunch, and it will prove a saving and not a loss of time.

Kate asks some one to tell her how many national holidays there are observed in the United States. Who will answer?

Hayseed can obtain full information in regard to the Chatauqua course of study by writing to Miss Kate F. Kimball, Buffalo, N. Y.

Kindergarten—Write to Dr. Mary E. Law, Toledo, for information.

Protestant wishes to know "Why Ash Wednesday?"

Because it is the custom of the priests of the Roman Catholic church to place ashes, in the form of a cross, on the forehead of persons who sought pardon for their sins on this, the first day of the Penetential season of Lent.

"A Friend" asks where these two lines occur:

"We met, 'twas in a crowd and
His eyes were upon me."

Life's Gateways, by Emily S. Bouton, is now wholly in the hands of the author, the Arena Company having gone out of the book business. The volume has received high encomiums from the press, having been said to be "a book which should lie upon the library or the work table for the every day reading of the family." Sent postpaid on receipt of the price—cloth, $1.00; paper, 50 cents. Toledo, O.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB

Receive Some Hints Concerning Collars and Clothes Pin Aprons.

Mrs. A. A. K., the editor-in-chief of this department has been absent from the city. The matter you write of will be attended to on her return.

Mrs. Glick would like some instructions regarding the art of tatting. Can any of the members of the club give them?

Dale DeForest was the club's speaker this morning, and first told us how to make a

Lovely Collar.

Cut a piece of collar canvas to fit the neck; an average size will measure 2¼ inches in width, 13½ inches at the upper edge and one inch longer at the lower

edge, both edges being slightly rounded toward the ends.

These measurements will, of course, vary somewhat, as some people cannot wear as high a stock as others, and some will need a longer one.

This is the foundation of the collar, and opens in the back.

Now take of the outside material, a strip cut on the bias, 2 inches longer than the foundation and 6 inches wide if of velvet, or 9 inches wide if of silk or satin.

Turn this material over the lining and hem or baste down the raw edge, gathering it at the ends, and tacking the full folds here and there to the foundation to keep them in place.

Now cover the back of the collar with a bias facing of silk, blind stitching it neatly around the edge, and sew two or three hooks and eyes on the ends, according to the width.

Make two long loops and two short ends of the velvet or silk, and tack so that it covers the closing and you will have a pretty crush collar to wear with any dress.

Fancy Collar.

To make an elaborate fancy collar, proceed as above, then make three canvas points; cover them with the outside material and line with the facing.

Tack one to the lower edge of your collar in the middle of the front, and one

at each side where it will come out over the shoulders.

Take two yards of lace from five to ten inches wide and full it around these points, and the edge of the collar.

I made a lovely one of dark green satin, lined with violet silk, and edged with cream-colored silk lace.

Of course the points may be made smaller, and five or six or seven of them put on at equal distances; don't skimp the lace or it will not hang well over the shoulders.

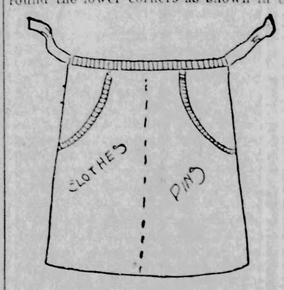
A collar of red velvet and black lace brightens a plain black gown wonderfully.

Turning with great ease and facility from daintiness to durability, the member described a

Clothespin Apron.

I have just finished a clothes pin apron that is so convenient, takes so little material, and is so quickly and easily made, I am sure it will recommend itself to this club.

Take one yard of calico, sateen, denim, or any cloth you may happen to have; round the lower corners as shown in the



illustration, bring the ends together and baste to a band long enough to go around the waist.

Bind around the sides and bottom, also at the edge of the two pockets, formed by putting a couple of rows of stitching through the center of the apron, and you have something to carry pins in when you hang out clothes, that is, much handier than a basket or bag, as it is tied around your waist and ready for constant use.

A very pretty one could be made of black sateen, with clothespins outlined upon it in yellow silk and fancy stitching around the pockets.

M. E. R. will entertain the club next week.

THE COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

The prevailing impression that one is "fasting" or "abstaining," by eating an unusually large quantity of fish during the Lenten season, is a little absurd when we remember that the most of people are fond of fish and from it very rich dishes may be prepared. However, for the benefit of those who wish to deny themselves the use of meat for the next six weeks the Cook will give to-day some recipes for cooking fish. These are taken from the book by Henriette Davidis, who is high authority in German methods of cooking:

Broiled Herring.

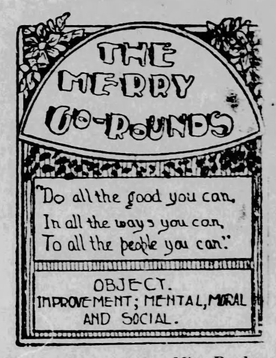
Freshen the fish, trim the head, remove the eyes and brown on a broiler, then lay them on a dish with slices of lemon, bay leaves, ground pepper and cloves. Pour over them a sauce made of vinegar and salad oil.

Herring Cream.

Freshen six herring for 24 hours, then cut them in pieces and place in a dish in which they are to be served. Place 1 cupful of not very strong vinegar, in a sauce pan, add the beaten yolks of 6 eggs, ½ lb. butter, 2 large, grated onions, 1 heaping teaspoonful of mustard and 1 tablespoonful of sugar. Stir over the fire to a cream and when cool pour over the pieces of fish. Serve with hard boiled eggs, mushrooms, gherkins or button onions.

Fish Rice.

Cook until tender ¼ lb. of rice in salted water or bouillon, boil 3 or 4 eggs till hard, remove the shells and cut the whites in small pieces, grating the yolks. Bone and flake ¾ lb. of cold, cooked fish, mix with the rice, and the whites of the eggs. Stir over the fire with 2 tablespoonfuls of butter, a little salt, cayenne pepper and nutmeg, till hot. Serve on a hot platter with the grated yolks of the eggs sprinkled over it.



Since our last meeting Miss Prudence has received letters from several of the older and more thoughtful of the members of the M. G. R., asking if some plan cannot be thought of by which we can make this Department of The Blade more helpful and uplifting to all who read it.

The idea from the inception of the column has been, with the editor, that it should be for the interchange of thought that would lead not only to mental improvement, but to higher ideals of spiritual life for the young people who read it each week. It was thought best to lay down no line of work, but to leave each individual perfect freedom to work out his own ideas of what would be necessary to reach the perfection which we should attain.

The motto chosen for the M. G. R.'s seemed to be sufficiently comprehensive to meet all requirements, if it was faithfully accepted and practiced in our daily lives. Let every one think seriously and honestly with themselves, if they do this. It is so easy to think we accept a motto, and really do so in a general way, while in the details of our lives we utterly ignore it, and not even realize that we do so.

For instance, I have at hand a letter from a young girl who promises to adopt our motto in every event of her life, and before her letter is finished, she complains sadly of being obliged to refrain from many pleasures because she has to help her mother with the housework and care of the children. Possibly, she "does all the good" she can, but she forgets that our motto implies that this good should be done cheerfully and gladly, or it loses its savor of goodness.

Little My, sends the first protest against the proposed Teachers' Circle. This is a proper thing for her to do, as long as she sees objections to it; it shows that she has a lively interest in the prosperity of the M. G. R., and that is what we wish for. While we do not approve of contradiction and fault-finding among our correspondents, we do wish to have an honest expression on both sides of any question submitted, and when one comes in such a modest manner and with such good reasons as does Little My, they need never fear being misunderstood even by those who may not agree with them:

Dear M. G. R.'s, do not think me impertinent in being of the first to object to the "Teachers Circle." The greatest fault I find with the plan is that if they once get interested in that club, their letters will gradually diminish in numbers to the M. G. R., and if there be enough in that from out of this circle to be of a benefit, what will become of the Merry-Go-Rounds? There will be but a mere handful of girls and boys who will forever keep Miss Prudence busily engaged correcting misspelled words and letters. Then there will be some, who probably had better advantages, who are not teachers either, but who, like myself, feel that they can be of more service, with those in their declining age, who ever have looked after our own welfare than they could in a school room.

The idea of a Teachers' Circle in the M. G. R., is not, as I understand it, to be one for private correspondence, and benefit only the teachers, but the letters containing questions of interest not only to teachers, but to all, shall be sent, as well as answers and suggestions, to the column for the benefit of all.

Surely, it must help our younger members to read the opinions of those who give thoughtful attention to certain subjects, and whose life work is to impart knowledge to others. These younger members, and those who may not have had all the advantages of education they might desire, could, by sending inquiries on special subjects, obtain information from different persons, and various methods of looking at the same subject by these persons. It would be, in fact, a national school, on a small scale.

So with other professions than teaching. In each the interchange of ideas would be helpful to us all.

New England Girl gives her ideas upon the idea of free text books:

Sunflower Kid, wherever I have taught not only the text books but all school supplies are furnished to the pupils free of charge. Taking everything into consideration, the free text book system is to be preferred; still, that too, has its drawbacks.

First, it doesn't entirely do away with the insufficiency of text books, as you seem to think it will. Again, the children in general do not take the care of the books they otherwise would, neither do their parents take pains to have them do so. Then as the books are taken from one school to another, they help to spread diseases.

The free text book system adds still another burden upon teachers' shoulders, for they must be librarians in addition to all the rest of their duties. In regard to the other supplies, especially pencils, I often think it would be better for the parents to furnish them.

Lenore, speaking of the qualities required in a successful teacher, "the half has never yet been told."

No, Miss Prudence, Sea Breeze's letter does not make me envious of her. I think she is to be pitied, rather than envied, for she does not know the pleasures of a good, old-fashioned winter. What summer sports can compare with coasting, sleighing and skating? Not one. As for the birds and flowers, the fact that we cannot have them with us all the year tends to make us appreciate them all the more while we do have them.

But how about such aged persons as the Chaperone, who can neither "coast, sleigh nor skate?"

"Stephen" is in a very complimentary mood this week. It would be out of order for Miss Prudence to say anything, of course, when she is so complimented, but she feels very thankful for all of the kind things she hears her girls and boys say of her, and she is also very thankful that she finished the "tower" safely, with no accidents to mar her pleasure nor any lack of hospitality to remember:

I think we ought to feel very proud of our Miss Prudence who, while on her "tower" showed herself such a truly American woman that she could travel all over the United States alone, and take care of herself. I believe American women are noted for their independence. And she certainly showed she possessed courage when she mounted the wheel (a very contrary steed at times), and a horse for the first time, and rode away with no noticeable timidity, and I will have to own that my heart swelled with pride when I saw us (on paper) riding through the streets of Washington, a capital city for cyclers.

I wonder how many of the M. G. R.'s are coming to the inauguration, if Etna will stop on her way to the N. E. Girls I will go with her, provided they don't object.

I want to help on the hunting expedition. I have a gun and can shoot without shutting my eyes, also have a revolver, and if they are not enough I can play "big injun" and take my archery outfit.

Phrenologist, I know a couple where the husband is a Methodist and the wife a Roman Catholic, yet they live very pleasantly together.

Lavallet thus gives expression to his "22d of February" musings. Possibly there may be some who read his letter who will not agree with him in all of his statements, and if they can give good reasons for not doing so he will doubtless be open to conviction:

I wish to say to the Merry-Go-Rounds that I object to compulsory education because "It is unwise in theory;" it destroys parental autonomy—the very essence of freedom; it is detrimental to education, it brings education into politics with bad results; it destroys self-reliance and the interests of parents and communities in educational matters; it causes unequal burdens on the poorer people; it encroaches upon the liberty of individuals.

Less thorough and general education is its result; it is un-American in theory, and hence American citizenship becomes degraded under its influence.

I make these statements to-day deeply impressed with the character of the greatest American citizen who ever lived, George Washington.

Birdie, a new member from Indiana, has evidently the necessary love for her work to make her very successful. She is not one of the many teachers who teach "so many hours a day for so much a month," and have no further interest in the success of this school. "Eternal vigilance" is the price, not only of liberty, but of success in any work.

For some time I have read with interest letters from the different members of your circle, and now I come asking if there is room for another teacher who wants to help and who needs help.

This winter I have spent teaching a school of 50. Many are the hours I have spent planning lessons, preparing devices, and thinking for my school, but after our long inches high, transplanting every spear of it in rows as far apart as you can stretch your finger. A Japanese farmer weeds his wheat field just as a Connecticut farmer weeds his onion bed, and cultivates his potatoes and barley with as much care as a Long Island farmer bestows upon his asparagus or mushrooms or his flowers. Boston Journal.

work is over and the children have developed both intellectually and spiritually are we not paid for our labors and self-sacrifice?

Am looking forward to a happy spring at the state normal.

I now feel myself dropping into the waste basket, so must close.

There is no occasion for you to have that "sinking" feeling, Birdie; the waste basket has plenty of material that we can spare better than we can your letter. Come again.

A young "Clodhopper" from Missouri tells us, as his introduction to our company, that he has been engaged during the winter, in attending a debating society connected with his school. He presents for the consideration and opinion of the M. G. R's, the next question to be argued by the society. It is this: "Resolved, that women are more patient than men."

If some women were not more patient than men, what ever would become of the boys and girls who tax somebody's patience every hour of the day?

Phrenologist thus throws cold water on the hopes of any young woman who may have hoped to attain to the happiness of being "Mrs. Phrenologist."

As some one seems to think I am in the matrimonial market, for the benefit of the girls let me inform them all, that the purchaser, or, using a more comprehensive term, the girl, in order to be the happy recipient, and amass the chattel, must conform to the following requisites: The minimum of her opulence must be in excess of ten thousand dollars. She must be not exasperating, or testy, but of a benignant, affable disposition. As to appearance her comeliness must be juvenile, and she must be congenial with Phrenologist.

Now, girls, let us hear how you bear this.

Hayseed wishes to be put on record as being strongly in favor of the gospel of work. He will find an answer to his question in another column of this issue of The Blade. "Papa's Tom Boy" is in favor of a teacher's circle, having at one time belonged to the guild, and still retaining her interest in such work.

Hazel is assured that she will be welcome whenever she has anything to say to us, and Miss Prudence hopes, and thinks that she will find no difficulty in "being a good little girl."

A stranger, "Wolverine," sends us her "initiation fee," the promise that she will faithfully live our motto, and suggests the advisability of our contenting ourselves with living one day at a time, and not troubling ourself about the morrow.

"Annie Marie" seems to be a dear little girl, and has written a nice letter, asking what she must do to gain admittance to the M. G. R. In the very first place, she must not write on both sides of her paper, as she did this time. This is the requirement, except what she already seems to know about, and we shall hope to hear from her soon.

C. E. Palmer thanks "Pussy" for his answer to the inquiry recently given in this column. On a postal card this message was received to-day: "Miss Prudence: You may tell —— that I should be pleased to correspond with her. Very truly, ——." Thanks for the permission, but the proper method of obtaining addresses for private correspondence is for you to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Miss Prudence, M. G. R., Toledo Blade, Toledo, O., asking for the address of the person with whom you wish to correspond; it will be returned to you and you can then conduct your correspondence to suit yourself.

Broncho Bill thinks as Scarlet Wing did in regard to single blessedness, though he may not have chosen his helpmate from the ranks of the M. G. R. Speaking of Miss Prudence being entertained at certain bachelor halls while on her "tower," he says:

I have in my time had the pleasure of entertaining ladies at my ranch, and also of having social gatherings there, but the mention of the coziness of a bachelor hall brings memories of the past that are pleasant. Just take a peep in at the home made bright and cozy by the willing hands and bright smiles of a wife, and put it side by side with the bachelor's hall and note the contrast.

I write from experience, while my wife of three months is making preparations for dinner.

The M. G. R. badges can be obtained only at this office, no one else having the right to manufacture them. Price, 50c.

THE IDEAL.

We are unsatisfied, and know not why;
We seek for the ideal of our dreams,
And strive to reach it guided by the beams
Of truth and faith. Setting our standard high,
We struggle on; but when the prize is nigh
We find that it eludes us, and it seems
To beckon onward, mocking with its gleams
Like some bright mirage in the Eastern sky.
With eyes blind to the glory here below,
Our thoughts forever turned away from earth,
We see no beauty around us, and the worth
Hidden in humble things we never know.
We grope, and pass unheeding on the way
The good that we are seeking day by day.
—Donahoe's Magazine.

The Use and Abuse of Cards.

The visiting card has been described as the badge of civilization. The knowledge of when and how to use the bit of pasteboard that represents one marks the social evolution of a woman from a household grub to a butterfly of fashion as nothing else does. The time was, and not so far back, either, that people were supposed to respond to all invitations in person, but, with the widening of society and the increasing of the number of functions, this has become impossible, and now on many occasions one's visiting card is taken as a very satisfactory substitute for one's presence.

One of the questions that puzzled the woman ignorant of the fine etiquette of cards, is how many cards shall she leave when calling. Shall she have a card for Mrs. Jones and each of the Misses Jones? And she will be relieved to learn that the latest decree of Mrs. Grundy makes two cards all sufficient, one for Mrs. Jones and the other for the daughters and the guest who happens to be staying with them. For an invitation to a tea or afternoon reception, which she finds it impossible to attend, the fashionable woman sends her card by mail, so that it reaches the house of the person giving the entertainment on the day of the function.

Of course, a well-bred woman is not guilty of the vulgarity of answering an invitation by scrawling "accepts" or "regrets" on a card. A formal invitation to a dinner or dance demands an immediate and definite answer. A visiting card will not balance a dinner table, and having accepted an invitation to dinner, it becomes a debt of honor to appear in person on time.

An inexorable rule is that cards should only be sent to the person from whom one received an invitation. If one receives a wedding announcement one does not send one's card to the bride, as the most important personage in the affair, but to the mother or person from whom one received the invitation. If the invitation, however, contains cards for the reception, and for the bride's "at home," then one's card must be sent to the mother, or whoever gave the reception on their day, and also to the bride on her at home day.

In times of grief or joy among one's friends one's card is still supposed to represent them, only in this case, it must not be sent through the mail, but delivered at the door in person.—Exchange.

The Japanese Farmer.

Japan is one vast garden, and as you look over the fields you can imagine that they are covered with toy farms where the children are playing with the laws of nature and raising samples of different kinds of vegetables and grains. Everything is on a diminutive scale, and the work is as fine and accurate as that applied to a Cloisonne vase. What would an Illinois or Indiana farmer think of planting his corn, wheat, oats and barley in bunches, and then, when it is three or four inches high, transplanting every spear of it in rows as far apart as you can stretch your finger. A Japanese farmer weeds his wheat field just as a Connecticut farmer weeds his onion bed, and cultivates his potatoes and barley with as much care as a Long Island farmer bestows upon his asparagus or mushrooms or his flowers. Boston Journal.

HOSTILITIES AVERTED.

Sir Banbury Cake and Sir Hot Cross Bun
Went out for a walk one day,
And they talked of currants and flour and spice
In an affable sort of way.

They spoke of ovens and cake-house fires,
And of how you felt when done;
Then they both bowed deeply for tripping up
Came the beautiful Sally Lunn.

"She'll be Lady Banbury soon, I hope,"
Cried Cake, as he laughed for glee;
But Bun rejoined, with a jealous growl,
"No, Lady Hot Cross she will be."

"I think you're mistaken there," said Cake,
In tones the reverse of sweet.
"I am not!" quoth Bun. "But at any rate
It is clear that we ought to meet."

"Just so," Cake answered, "we're bound to have
A duel and risk our lives."
"Ah, you catch my meaning," responded Bun.
"Let us do it with table knives!"

And they doubtless would, like two knights of old,
Have fought a tremendous fight,
If they hadn't chanced to be eaten up
By a boy with an appetite!
—The Universalist.

LEARNED A LESSON.

They Often Come as the Result of Personal Experience.

I've learned a lesson, boys! No doubt that sounds strange to you, for probably you think that grown people never have any lessons to learn. But I do not mean lessons out of a book, though grown people sometimes learn those too. I know several women who never attempted to learn a foreign language until after they were forty years of age, and they acquired them well, and even learned to speak them fluently.

But grown people are learning lessons every day of their lives—lessons of patience from the mother-bird who sits for weeks on the tiny eggs waiting for the little birds to hatch—lessons from nature everywhere.

But these are things from which all may learn lessons. There is another class, however, that comes to individuals, and is the result of personal experience. This is the kind of one I have just learned, and it was taught me by what do you think? An envelope! I had four folded enclosures for one envelope, and they made what is known as a "tight fit." I had no larger envelope and those things must go in. Three were in safely, but when I attempted to put in the fourth the envelope began to split a little at the corners. I was in despair. Just at the time I had no other, so the fourth one must go in. Then it occurred to me to separate two that were already in and slip the fourth one between them, thus bringing the strain to bear upon a different place. And, boys! lo, everything went in nicely, with no split anywhere.

I learned two lessons that time. One of them was that there is more than one way of doing everything, and another was that meeting another half way is often the best way of gaining one's point. Force, you see, would only have destroyed my one envelope altogether, and then where would I have been? But accepting the fact that it would not go in my way, and being willing to try some other, I came off triumphant.

Don't always be too sure of yourselves. It is well for everyone to be sure of his own convictions, but it is also well to remember that others may be right as well as ourselves, and that we are not the only ones in the world who possess brains.

Different people think out things in different ways, and the same conclusion may be reached by two entirely different paths. There is a true saying that there is a right way and a wrong way for everything, but there may also be several of each. Or rather, while the number of wrong ways of doing things may be infinite, there may very readily be more than one right way of accomplishing almost everything.—Christian Work.

Discovered Through a Child.

When Sir Humphrey Davy was a boy about sixteen, a little girl came to him in great excitement.

"Humphrey, do tell me why these two pieces of cane make a tiny spark of light when I rub them together."

Humphrey was a studious boy, who spent hours in thinking out scientific problems. He patted the child's curly head and said:

"I do not know, dear. Let us see if they really do make a light, and then we will try to find out why."

Humphrey soon found that the little girl was right; the pieces of cane, if rubbed together quickly, did give a tiny light. Then he set to work to find out the reason; and after some time—thanks to the observing powers of his little friend, and his own kindness to her in not impatiently telling her not to "worry" as so many might have done—Humphrey Davy made the first of his interesting discoveries. Every reed, cane, and grass has an outer skin of flinty stuff, which protects the inside from insects, and also helps the frail-looking leaves to stand upright.

Talking about children helping in discoveries reminds us of another pretty tale. In 1807, some children were playing near the Orange river, in Africa. They picked up a stone which they thought was only a very pretty pebble, far prettier than they had found before. A neighbor, seeing this stone, offered to buy it for a mere trifle. He, in his turn, sold it to some one else; and so the pebble changed hands, till at last it reached the governor of the colony, who paid $2,000 for it. This stone which the children had found was the first of the African diamonds.—Selected.

OUR WONDER COLUMN.

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was born at Eisleben November 10, 1483, his father being a poor miner. He was a promising boy who early conceived the idea of obtaining an education, and sang beneath the windows of the rich as one means of supporting himself while in pursuit of learning at the University of Erfort. He joined the order of Augustine monks; was lecturer in Greek and afterward in theology at Wittemberg, and two years later was sent to Rome. In 1517 the pope inaugurated wholesale traffic in indulgences, which angered him; he boldly denounced the action, and defended his position at the Diet of Worms. He was imprisoned at Wartburg Castle, where, with aid from Melancthon and others,

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

DINGLEY'S NEW TARIFF BILL

EXTENDED FOR PROTECTION AS WELL AS REVENUE.

Duties as Proposed in the Bill Which Was Introduced in the House Yesterday.

Washington, March 16.—The new tariff bill prepared by the Republican members of the ways and means committee was introduced in the House yesterday by Chairman Dingley. The principal features of the bill follow:

Schedule K—Wool and manufactures of wool.

All wools, hair of the camel, goat, alpaca, and like animals are divided into three classes:

Class 1—Merino, mestiza, metz, or metis wools, or other wools of merino blood, immediate or remote, down clothing wools, and wools of like character, including Bagdad wool, China lambs' wool, Castle Branca, Adrianople skin wool, or butchers' wool, and such as have been usually imported into the United States from Buenos Ayres, New Zealand, Australia, Cape of Good Hope, Russia, Great Britain, Canada, Egypt, Morocco and elsewhere, and also including all wools not designated in class 2 and 3.

Class 2—Leicester, Cotswold, Lincolnshire, Down combing wools, Canada long wools, or other like combing wools of English blood, hair of the camel, Angora goat, alpaca and like animals.

Class 3—Donskoi, native South American, Cordova, Valparaiso, native Smyrna, Russian camels' hair, and wools of like character, as have been imported into the United States from Turkey, Greece, Syria, and elsewhere, excepting improved wools hereinafter provided for.

Duties Fixed.

The duties fixed are—Class 1, 11 cents a pound; Class 2, 12 cents; Class 3, on wools valued at 13 cents or less per pound, including charges, and on common goat hair, 32 per cent ad valorem, valued at more than 13 cents per pound, 50 per cent ad valorem.

Standard samples of wools which are or may be deposited in the principal custom houses are to be the standards for classification, and the secretary of the treasury is authorized to renew the standards from time to time in his judgment. Wools of Class 3 improved from their present character by the mixture of merino or English blood shall be classified as Class 1 or 2. Wools of the first class imported washed shall pay double duty, and wools of the first and second classes imported scoured, treble duty.

Unwashed wools shall be considered such as shall have been shorn from the sheep without any cleansing; washed wools such as have been washed with water only on the sheep's back, or on the skin. Wool washed in any other manner shall be considered as scoured. Wools of classes one and two imported in any other than ordinary conditions, or sorted, or increased in value by the rejection of any part of the original fleece shall pay double duty, but skirted wools as imported in 1890 and before, are excepted.

The duty upon wool changed in character or condition for evading duty, or reduced in value by admixture of dirt or other foreign substance, shall be twice doubled. Duty on wools on which duty is assessed amounting to three times or more than if unwashed, shall not be doubled on account of its being sorted. If any bale or package of wool or hair claimed by the importer to be dutiable as of any specified class, contains any wool subject to a higher duty than the class specified the whole bale or package shall be subjected to the highest rate of duty chargeable on wool of the class subject to such higher rate of duty, and if any package be claimed by the importer to be shoddy, mungo, flocks, wool, hair, or other material of any class specified and such bale contain any admixtures of any other material, the whole bale or package shall be subject to duty at the highest rate imposed upon any article in said bale or package. Wools on the skin shall pay the same rate as other wools.

Figures on Shoddy.

Duties on Noils, shoddy, top waste, slubbing waste, roving waste, ring waste, yarn waste, garnetted waste and all other wastes composed wholly or in part of wool, 30c per pound, on woolen rags, mungo and flocks, 10c per pound.

Wools and hair in the form of roping, roving, or tops, and all which have been advanced in any manner or by any process of manufacture beyond the washed or scoured condition, not specially provided for in this act, shall be subject to the same duties as are imposed upon manufactures of wool not specially provided for.

On rovings, ropings and yarns made wholly or in part of wool, valued at not more than 30c per pound, the duty shall be two and one-half times the duty on a pound of unwashed wool of the first class; valued at more than 30c, and not more than 40c, three times the duty on unwashed wool of the first class; valued at more than 40c, three and one-half times, and upon all the above additional duties shall be imposed as follows:

On roving, roping and yarns, wholly or in part of wool, and not advanced beyond the condition of single yarn by grouping or twisting two or more single ropings, rovings, or yarns together, the duty shall be 15c per pound on all numbers up to and including No. 30; on all numbers finer than No. 30, 15c, and in addition 3-10th of 1 cent for each number in excess of 30; if advanced beyond the condition of single yarn the additional duty shall be 10c on numbers to and including 30; numbers fined than 30 and not finer than 50, 18c and 3-10 of a cent additional for each number in excess of 30; on numbers finer than 50, 18c and 4-10 of a cent for each number exceeding 30. On rovings, ropings and yarns, genapped, bleached, colored, stained or printed in whole or in part, 5 cents per pound in addition to the foregoing; and on genapped yarns bleached, colored, stained or printed, in whole or in part, 5c per pound shall be imposed in addition to all the foregoing duties.

The numbers of rovings, ropings and yarns shall be determined by the number of hanks of 560 yards each of a single yarn or strand in one pound.

Woolen Manufactures.

The following schemes of mixed, specific and ad valorem duties on manufactured goods has been devised:

On cloths, knit fabrics, not especially provided for in this; on all manufactures of every description made wholly or in part of wool, not specially provided for, valued at not more than 30 cents per pound, the duty shall be three times the duty on unwashed wool of the first class; more than 30 cents and not more than 40, three and one-half times; more than 40 cents, four times and in addition on all the foregoing the following duties: Valued at not more than 30 cents per pound; 6 cents; more than 30 and not more than 40 cents, 8 cents; more than 40 and not more than 50 cents, 15 cents; more than 50 and not more than 70 cents, 21 cents; and in addition 8 cents per pound for every 20 cents per pound of value in excess of 70 cents per pound; and in addition to the foregoing, on all articles mentioned in this paragraph 20 per cent ad valorem

On blankets and flannels for underwear composed wholly or in part of wool valued at not more than 30 cents per pound the duty shall be the same as on a pound and one-half of unwashed wool of the first class, and in addition 5 cents per pound and 15 percentum ad valorem; more than 30 and not more than 40 cents, twice the duty on unwashed wool of the first class, and 8 cents per pound and 20 per cent ad valorem; more than 40 and not more than 50 cents, three times, and in addition 10 cents per pound and 20 percentum ad valorem. On blankets valued at more than 50 cents per pound, three and one-half times the duty on unwashed wool of the first class, and in addition 15 cents per pound and 20 per centum ad valorem; flannels valued above 50 cents per pound, the same duty as women's and children's dress goods, coat linings, Italian cloths, and goods of similar character.

Provided, that on blankets over three yards in length the same duties shall be paid as on cloths.

Figures on Dress Goods.

On women's and children's dress goods, coat linings, Italian cloths and goods of similar character valued at not exceeding 15 cents per square yard, 7 cents per square yard; more than 15 cents, 8 cents; and in addition on such goods valued at not exceeding 10 cents per square yard, 2 cents per square yard; more than 10 cents and not exceeding 12½ cents, 3¾ cents; more than 12½ cents and not exceeding 17½, 5¼ cents; more than 17½ cents, and not more than 22½, 7¼ cents; more than 22½ cents, 7¼ cents, and in addition thereto 2 cents per square yard for every 5 cents per square yard; and in addition on all the articles in this paragraph 20 per cent ad valorem: On all the foregoing, weighing over four ounces per square yard, the duty shall be the same as on cloths.

On women's and children's woolen dress goods, coat linings, Italian cloths, bunting and goods of similar character, not specially provided for, 11 cents per square yard; and on such goods valued at not exceeding 12½ cents per square yard, in addition 3¾ cents a yard; valued at not more than 12½ cents, and not exceeding 17½ cents, 5¼ cents; more than 17½ cents and not more than 22½ cents, 7¼ cents; more than 22½ cents, 7¼ cents, and in addition, 2 cents per square yard for every 5 cents per square yard or fractional part thereof of value in excess or 22½ cents, and on all foregoing 20 per cent ad valorem. On all in the above paragraph weighing over four ounces per square yard the duty shall be the same as on cloths.

Clothing and Carpets.

Clothing, ready-made and articles of wearing apparel including shawls and knitted underwear not specially provided for, felt not woven and not specially provided for, and plushes and other pile fabrics, a duty of four and one-half times that on unwashed wool of the first class and 60 per cent ad valorem.

Cloaks, dolmans, jackets, talmas, ulsters, or other outside garments for ladies' and children's apparel four and one-half times the duty on unwashed wool of the first class, and 60 per cent ad valorem.

On woolen webbings, gorings, suspenders, braces, beltings, bindings, braids, gallons, fringes, gimps, cords, cords and tassels, dress trimmings, laces and embroideries, head nets, buttons, or barrel buttons, or buttons of other forms, for tassels or ornaments, wrought by hand or braided by machinery, 60 cents per pound, 60 per cent ad valorem.

Aubusson, Axminster, Moquette and Chenille carpets, figures or plain, carpets woven whole for rooms, and all carpets or carpeting of like character and Oriental, Berlin and other similar rugs, 60 cens per square yard, and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Saxony, Wilton and Tournay velvet carpets, 60 cents a yard and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Brussels carpets, 44 cents a yard and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Velvet and tapestry velvet carpets printed in the wrap or otherwise, 40 cents a yard and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Tapestry brussels carpets, 28 cents a yard and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Treble ingrain, three-ply, and all chain Venetian carpets, 19 cents a yard and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Wool, Dutch and two-ply ingrain carpets, 14 cents a yard, and 40 per cent ad valorem.

Carpets and carpeting of wool, flax, or cotton, or composed in part of either, not specially provided for, 50 per cent ad valorem. Mats, rugs, screens, covers, hassocks, bed sides, art squares and other portions of carpets or carpeting made wholly or in part of wool, and not specially provided for shall pay the rates on carpetings of like character.

The word "wool" is described to include wool or hair of the sheep, camel, goat, alapaca, or other animal, prepared by the woolen, worsted, felt, or any other process of manufacture.

Sugar Schedule in Short.

Schedule E.—Sugar, molasses and manufactures of—one of the most important—is also one of the shortest in the act. Sugars not above No. 16 Dutch test and concentrates, testing not above 75 degree, are dutiable at 1c per pound and 1-100 of a cent additional for each degree above; above No. 16, and all refined sugars, 1.875 cents per pound; molasses above 56 degrees, 6c per gallon.

On sugars from bounty-paying countries, an additional duty equal to the amount of the bounty is levied. Sugar tank bottoms, etc., the product of any country which pays, directly or indirectly, a bounty on the export thereon, whether imported directly and in condition as exported therefrom, or otherwise, shall pay, in addition to the foregoing rates, a duty equal to such bounty, or so much thereof as may be in excess of any tax collected by such country upon such article, or upon the beet or cane from which it was produced.

It is provided that, however, this does not affect the existing Hawaiian reciprocal treaty.

Other duties in the schedule are: Maple sugar and syrup, 4c per pound; glucose or grape sugar, 1½c per pound; sugar cane in its natural state or manufactured, 20 per cent ad valorem; saccharine, $2 per pound and 15 per cent ad valorem; sugar candy and all confectionery and all other articles made wholly or partly of sugar, valued at 15c per pound or less, 8c per pound and 20 per cent ad valorem; valued at more than 15c and not more than 35c per pound, 15c and 20 per cent ad valorem; above 35c, 30 per cent ad valorem.

The weight of wrappers shall be included in the dutiable weight of the merchandise.

Wood Schedule.

The wood schedule fixes these duties:

Timber for spars and wharves, 1c per cubic foot; sawed boards and other lumber of white wood, sycamore and bass wood, $1 per 1,000 feet; sawed lumber, not specially provided for, $2 per 1,000; planed lumber, 50c additional per 1,000 feet for every side planed; tongued and grooved and planed on one side, $1 additional; both sides, $1.50. No deduction is made in measurement for planing, etc. It is provided that in case a foreign country imposes an import tax on lumber, then an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent shall be added to the regular duties on lumber from that country. Boxes and packages of thread that are dutiable at 20 per cent ad valorem, kindling wood in bundles, 3-10 of 1c per bundle of ¼ foot; sawed boards of cedar, box, mahogany and other hard cabinet woods, 15 per cent; veneers, 20 per cent; clapboards, $1.50 per 1,000; wheel hubs and like blocks, unfinished, 20c; laths, $1 per 1,000; pickets, 10 per cent; shingles, 30c per 1,000; casks and packing boxes, 30 per cent; rattan chair cane, 10 per cent; willow, 20 per cent; manufactures of willow, 50 per cent; toothpicks, 1½c per 1,000 and 15 per cent; furniture, 35 per cent.

Earthenware and China.

On earthenware and china the duties are:

Fire brick, plain, $1.25 per ton; glazed or ornamented, 40 per cent; plain bricks, 25 per cent; enameled or decorated, 30 per cent; tiles of all kinds, valued at under 40c per square foot, 8c per foot; over 40c value, 10c per foot and 25 per cent; hydraulic cements, in packages, 8c per cwt.; in bulk, 7c; other cements, 20 per cent; lime, 20 per cent; plaster of paris, $1.50 per ton; pumice stone, 1½c per pound; manufactured, 20 per cent; clays, $1 per ton, manufactured, $2; kaolin, $7; asphaltum and bitumen not specifically provided for, $3.

Common brown earthenware, 20 per cent; china, decorated, 60 per cent; earthen articles not specifically provided for, 35 per cent; plain, 40c.

Gas retorts, $3 each; lava tips for burners, 10c per gross and 15 per centum; carbons for electric lighting and filter tubes, 50 per cent; porous pits for electric batteries, without metallic connections, 20 per cent; plain glass bottles, holding more than a quart and carboys and other plain molded glassware not specifically provided for, 1c per pound; bottles between one-half pint and one pint capacity, ¼ per cent per pound; between quarter and half pints, 1½c; less than quarter pint, 50c gross.

Provided that one shall pay less than 40 per cent, the value of the bottles shall be added in calculating the ad valorem duty on bottles containing articles subject to ad valorem duties. Articles of plain glass, not enumerated, 60 per cent; decorated glass, porcelain and opal glass, 60 per cent; common cylinder, crown and window glass, sizes below 10x-5 inches, 1½c per pound; below 16x24 inches, ¼c; below, 24x30 inches, 2½c; below 24x36 inches, 2¾c; below 30x40 inches, 3¾c; below 40x60 inches, 3¾c; above that, 4¾c; and boxes must contain 50 square feet.

Cylinder and crown glass polished, below 10x24 inches, 4c per foot; below 24x20 inches, 6c; below 24x60 inches, 20c; above that, 40c.

On rough plate, including glass containing wire netting, the duties range from ¾c per square foot to 2c, according to size, with provision for additional proportionate duties on glass weighing more than 100 pounds per 100 square feet. Cast polished plate from 8c per foot to 35c, according to size; looking glass from 9c to 40c per square foot.

Bent, frosted or ornamented polished plate, 10 per cent additional; spectacles and their frames, from 75c per dozen and 20 per cent to 50 per cent, according to value; lenses, edges, unground, 45 per cent; ground, 10c per dozen; lantern slides, 45c; optical instruments not specifically provided for, 45 per cent; fusible enamel, 25 per cent.

Reciprocity Provided For.

Reciprocity—The reciprocity scheme of the bill authorizes the President to make treaties with foreign countries by which he will lower the duties on certain goods in return for reciprocal or equivalent concessions to products or manufactures of the United States. It further provides that "with a view to secure reciprocal trade, with foreign governments, the President, when he is satisfied that any government of a country or colony of such government exporting to the United States, coffee, tea or hides, imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural, manufactured or other products of the United States which he may deem to be reciprocally unreasonable shall have the power to suspend by proclamation the free introduction of such coffee, tea and hides, raw or uncured, whether dry, salted or pickled. Angora goat skins, raw, without the wool unmanufactured; asses' skins, raw or manufactured, and skins, except sheep skins with the wool on; products of such country or colony for such time as he shall deem just."

During such suspensions the duties shall be: Coffee, 2c per pound; tea, 10c; hides, Angora goat skins, asses' skins, skins, except sheep skins with wool on, 1c per pound.

The articles on which duties will be lowered by reciprocity treaties and the rate at which they will be entered under such treaties follows:

Argols, or cruda tartar, or wine lees, 1c per pound; chickle, 7c per pound; brandies, $2 per proof gallon; champagne and other sparkling wines at the rate of $6 per dozen quarts.

Still wines, including ginger wine or ginger cordial and vermuth, in casks, 50c per gallon; in bottles or jugs, at the rate of $1 for a dozen quarts.

Laces or silk or of which silk is the component material or chief value, 55 per cent.

Mineral waters and imitations of natural mineral waters and artificial mineral waters in green or colored glass bottles of not more than one pint, 20c per dozen; quarts, 25c; not in bottles, 20c per gallon. Paintings, drawings and statuary, 20 per cent; sugar, molasses, etc., 92 per cent of the regular duty.

Silk and Silk Goods.

Schedule L.—Silks and silk goods. Silk partly manufactured, not further advanced than corded or combed, 40c per pound; thrown silk (singles), tram, organzine, sewing silk, twist, floss and silk threads or yarns, except spun silk, 30 per cent. Spun silk, value not exceeding $1 a pound, 20c per pound and 15 per cent; $1 to $1.50, 30c and 1 per cent; $1.50 to $2, 40c and 15 per cent; $2 to $2.50, 50c and 15 per cent; $2.50, 60c and 15 per cent; none to pay less than 35 per cent.

Velvets, chenilles or other pile fabrics, $1.50 per pound and 40 per cent; plushes, $1.25 and 15 per cent; none less than 50 per cent.

Goods in the piece, not more than 20 per cent of weight silk, 50c per pound; more than 20 and not more than 30 per cent silk, 65 cents.

Dyed in the thread, not more than 25 per cent silk, 75c; between 25 and 40 per cent, $1.10; more than 40 per cent, black, $1.50; other than black, if weight not increased in dyeing, $2; in the gum, $2.50; dyed in the piece, $3.25; less than 1 1-3 ounces per square yard in the gum, $3; less than one ounce, $4; not more than 1-3 ounce, $5; none less than 50 per cent.

Handkerchiefs or mufflers, same as in piece, hem-stitched, embroidered or trimmed, 10 per cent additional. Bandings, beltings, garters, suspenders, etc., not embroidered, 50 per cent; laces and articles wholly or partly of lace, edgings, flouncings, vellings, neck ruffling, etc., of which silk is the chief element, 60 per cent, and when composed in part of India rubber, 50c per ounce additional.

All manufactures of silk not specifically provided for, including such as contain rubber, 50 per cent; and when containing wool shall be assessed also as manufactures of wool.

Paper, Pulp and Books.

Schedule M—Pulp, papers and books:

Mechanically ground wood pulp, one-twelfth of one cent per pound; chemical wood pulp, unbleached, 0 cent; bleached, 1-4 cent. Sheathing paper and roofing felt, 10 per cent. Printing paper for books and newspapers, 15 per cent. Copying paper, Japanese and all other thin papers, not over 6 pounds to standard ream, 8 cents per pound and 15 per cent; six to ten pounds, 6 cents and 10 per cent; albumenized, 30 per cent; crepe paper, 6 cents and 10 per cent. Surface coated papers, 3 cents and 10 per cent; if printed or covered with metal or gelatine, 3c and 20 per cent; parchment papers, 2c and 10 per cent; lithographic print, except cigar labels and bands, 20, 8 and 6 cents, according to thickness of paper; cigar bands and labels, 20c, in ten or more colors, 30c; in metal, 40c.

Envelopes, 20 per cent ad valorem; embossed, 30; paper hangings, 25 per cent; writing paper, not more than fifteen pounds to ream, 2½c and 10 per cent; more than this, 6c and 10 per cent; decorated, 10 per cent additional; blank books, 20 per cent; books, engravings, photographs, charts and other printed matter, 25 per cent; playing cards, 10c per pack and 50 per cent; manufacturers of paper, 35 per cent.

Iron and Ore.

Schedule C—Metals, iron ore and pyrites, residium, 40 cents per ton (no allowance for moisture.) Iron pigs, wrought and cast, scrap iron and steel, $4 per ton; iron rods, round, above 7-16 inch, and square, not enumerated, 6-10 cents per pound; round iron, less than 7-16 inch, 1 cent per pound; all iron in slabs or blooms, loops and other forms than this, old and bars and more than pig iron, except castings, 5-10c per pound; provided that charcoal iron shall pay, 12c per ton.

Structural iron, beams, angles, etc., 6-10c per pound; bolts or other parts of iron or steel, according to value, above No. 10 and valued at 1c or less per pound, 5-10c per pound duty; between 1 and 2 cents, 6-10c; between 2 and 3c, 1 cent; above 4 cents, 30 per cent.

Plate below No. 10, same duty as sheet.

Iron and steel anchors and forgings for vessels or locomotives above twenty-five pounds, 1 3-10c; other forgings not specially provided for, 1½c, but no duty shall be less than 35 per cent.

Hoop iron and steel, valued at 3c or less than 8 inches or less in width and not thinner than No. 20 wire gauge, 5-10c; between 10 and 20 guage, 7-10c; below 20, 9-10c; hoop iron or steel, cut to length or made into hoops and ties for cotton; splayed or punched, 1-10c per pound additional to above.

Railway bars, iron and steel or flat rails, 7-10c per pound; fish plates, ½c; sheet iron or steel and skelp valued at 3c or less per pound and between 10 and 20 guage, 7-10c per pound; between 20 and 25, 9-10c; between 25 and 32 guage, 1c; thinner than 32, 1 1-10c; corrugated, 1 1-10 cents per pound.

Cotton Manufactures.

The cotton manufacturers schedule is almost a re-enactment of the present law, except that spool thread is dutiable at 6 instead of 5¾ per dozen spools, carrying not exceeding 100 yards. The ad valorem duties are increased ¼ cent per square yard, to 1½c. The highest rates on cloths running more than 100 threads to the square yard, is fixed at 8 instead of 7c in the present law, with an increase of an additional 50c per pound to 40 per cent. The duty on cotton plushes, velvets etc., is compounded, unbleached 12 cents and 20 per cent; bleached, 14c and 20 per cent; goods of cotton chenille are increased from 4 5-10 to 50 per cent.

The duties on cotton hose are made specific, valued at $1.50 per dozen pairs, 50 cents and 15 per cent; not more than $3.75 cents and 20 per cent; more than $3 and 25 per cent. Cotton underwear is dutiable at from 35 per cent to $1.75 per dozen and 40 per cent, according to value. Belts, garters, ribbons, etc., 45 per cents wicking, 10c and 15 per cent; damask, 40 per cent; thread lace, 60 per cent; on cotton manufacturers not specially provided for is increased from 35 per cent to 40 per cent.

Agricultural Duties.

Tobacco—Leaf wrappers, unstemmed, $2 per pound; stemmed, $2.75; if more than 15 per cent of the fabric is suitable for wrappers, whole dutiable as above. All other tobacco, unmanufactured and unstemmed, 75c per pound; stemmed, 80 cents. Manufactured and not specially provided for, 40 cents per pound. Cigars, cigarettes and cheroots, $4.50 per pound and 25 per cent. Paper cigarettes the same.

Agricultural duties are levied as follows:

Cattle, from $1 to $30 per head; horses, mules, $20, valued at over $100; 25 per cent; sheep, $1.50; under one year old, 75c; other live animals, 20 per cent.

Barley, 30c per bushel; barley malt, 45c per bushel; barley patented or hulled, 2c per pound; buckwheat, 15c per bushel; corn, 15c per bushel; corn meal, 2c per bushel; macaroni, vermicelli and all similar preparations, 2c per pound; oats, 15c per bushel; oat meal and rolled oats, 1c per pound; oat hulls, 10c per hundred weight; rye, cleaned, 2c per pound; uncleaned, ½c per pound; rye flour and meal and broken rye, ½c per pound; paddy, 8c per pound; rye, 10c per bushel; tapioca and sago, ½c per pound; arrowroot flour, 3c per pound; wheat, 25c per bushel; wheat flour, 25 per cent; butter and substitutes, 6c per pound; cheese, 6c per pound; milk, fresh, 2c gallon; preserved milk, 2c per pound; sugar of milk, 5c per pound; beans, 50c per bushel; beans, peas and mushrooms, 21c per pound and 15 per cent.

All prepared vegetables not provided for, and fish paste and sauce, 45 per cent; cabbages, 5c each; cider, 5c per gallon; eggs, 5c per dozen eggs; yolk of, 25 per cent; hay, $4 per ton; honey, 20c per gallon; hops, 15c per pound; onions, 40c per bushel; garlic, 1c per pound; peas, green, in bulk or in barrels, 40c per bushel; dried and split, 60c per bushel; small packages, 1c per pound; plants, trees, etc., not specially provided for, 30 per cent; potatoes, 25c per bushel; seeds, castor beans or seeds, 25c per bushel; flaxseed or linseed, 20c per bushel.

Straw, $1.50 per ton; teazles, 30 per cent; vegetables, unprepared, not provided for, 25 per cent.

Various Schedules.

An additional tax duty equal to any export duty levied on fish; apples, 15c; apples and other dried fruits, 2c; berries, 5c per quart; sweetmeats, 35 per cent; figs, prunes and raisins, 2½c per pound; dates and currants, 1½c per pound; olives in bottles, 25c per gallon; casks, 15c per gallon; grapes, casks, 15c per gallon; grapes and peaches, 1c per pound; oranges, lemons, etc., 15c per pound and 15 per cent; orange and lemon peel and citron, 2c; pineapples, 2c per pound.

Bacon, ham and sausage, 5c per pound; mutton and pork, 2c per pound; fluid extracts, 15c per pound; lard, 2c per pound; poultry, alive, 3c per pound; dressed, 5c; tallow, 1c per pound; wool grease, ½c per pound.

Carpets, mats and rugs, value 30 cents per square yard, 6c and 35 per cent; above 30 cents, 12c and 40 per cent; hydraulic hose, 20c per pound; tapes, 40c; oil cloths, linoleum, 10c per square and 15 per cent; inlaid linoleum and cork carpets, 20c and 20 per cent; waterproof cloth, 10c and 20 per cent.

The Free List.

The free list differs from the existing law in the reformation of the proper schedules in the dutiable list of the following articles:

Argol, or crude tartar; art educational stops of glass or metal, valued at less than 6c per gross, articles imported by the United States, cotton bagging and gunny cloth, burlaps, bologna sausage, bolting cloths, blue vitriol, chicory root, bones, farina, fashion plates engraved, feathers, straw hat braids, brown corn, fish for bait, fish netting, large glass plates and disks for optical purposes, and broken glass, gunny bags, guts, soited, bones and whetstones, lemon and lime juice, magnets, nux vomica, oakum, oil cake, ochre, oranges and lemon peel, orchids, palms and scientific apparatus and plaster casts, polishing stones, professional books, cider, copper in ingots and plates, not otherwise provided for, copperas, milk, mineral waters, molasses, crude, opium, raw; paintings and sketches not otherwise provided for; parafine, nursery stock, plows and harrow teeth, cotton gins, razors, etc., hatters' plush, salt, sauer kraut, sausage skins, shells, shrimp and shell fish, foreign postage stamps, tallow and wool grease, terra alba, tinsel wire, lame or lahn, tripoli wafers, non-medicated and uneditble; railroad ties, poles, laths, sawed boards and some other descriptions of partially manufactured wood.

McKINLEY'S FIRST MESSAGE

THE PRESIDENT SENDS KINDLY GREETING TO CONGRESS

And Informs That Body of the Situation and the Remedy He Expects Them to Apply.

Washington, March 16.—President McKinley's first message to the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth congress evoked spontaneous and hearty applause from both sides of the chamber yesterday.

It was a verbal message, and was delivered by Mr. Payne, of New York, who, with Mr. Northway, of Ohio, and Mr. Bailey, of Texas, had been appointed by the House as a committee, together with a like committee of the Senate, consisting of Senators Hoar and Cockrell, to inform the President that the Fifty-fifth congress had been duly organized, and was ready for business. Mr. Payne announced the performance of the committee's duty, and said that the President desired him to convey to the House his "kindly greetings," and to inform the members that he would communicate with them at once in writing.

The spontaneity of the applause which followed the announcement indicated its sincerity. It has been many long days since "kindly greetings" were conveyed from the chief executive to congress, and that they were appreciated by the House members, without regard to political affiliations, was amply evidenced by their cordial reception.

The communication "in writing," which the President had promised, followed a few minutes later. It was practically President McKinley's first state paper, and its reading was followed with close and eager attention, both by the members on the floor and by the people in the galleries. It was a brief, but admirably drawn statement of the President's reasons for calling congress into extraordinary session. It is new into strong relief the need of the government for more revenue than it is now receiving, and in a clear, straight-to-the-point manner indicated the duty of congress in the premises. In its preparation President McKinley had evidently realized that the message was serious business, and, while it was characteristically forceful in style, and elegant in diction, its statements were not clouded by rhetorical frills or sophomorical gymnastics. The favorable temper of the House was indicated by the applause which followed the reading of the document.

In full the message is as follows:

The Message.

To the Congress of the United States: Regretting the necessity which has required me to call you together, I feel that your assembling in extraordinary session is indispensable, because of the condition in which we find the revenues of the government.

It is conceded that its current expenditures are greater than its receipts, and that such a condition has existed for now more than three years. With unlimited means at our command, we are presenting the remarkable spectacle of increasing our public debt by borrowing money to meet the ordinary outlays incident upon even an economical and prudent administration of the government. An examination of the subject discloses this fact in every detail, and leads inevitably to the conclusion that the condition of the revenue which allows it is unjustifiable, and should be corrected.

We find by the reports of the secretary of the Treasury that the revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, from all sources, were $425,868,260.22, and the expenditures for all purposes were $415,935,806.56, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures of $9,914,453.66. During that fiscal year $40,570,467.98 were paid upon the public debt, which had been reduced since March 1, 1889, $250,076,890, and the annual interest charge decreased $11,684,576.60. The receipts of the government from all sources during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, amounted to $461,716,561.94 and its expenditures to $459,374,887.65, showing an excess of receipts over expenditures of $2,341,674.29.

Some Startling Figures.

Since that time the receipts of no fiscal year, and with but few exceptions of no month of any fiscal year, have exceeded the expenditures. The receipts of the government, from all sources, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, were $372,802,498.29, and its expenditures, $442,605,758.87, leaving a deficit, the first since the resumption of specie payments, of $69,803,260.58. Notwithstanding there was a decrease of $16,769,-128.78 in the ordinary expenses of the government, as compared with the previous fiscal year, its income was still not sufficient to provide for its daily necessities, and gold reserve in the treasury for the redemption of greenbacks was drawn upon to meet that deficit. But this did not suffice, and the government then resorted to loans to replenish the reserve.

In February, 1894, $50,000,000 in bonds were issued, and in November following a second issue of $50,000,000 was deemed necessary. The sum of $117,-171,795 was realized by the sale of these bonds, but the reserve was steadily decreased until, on February 8, 1895, a third sale of $62,315,400 in bonds, for $65,116,244 was announced to congress.

Big Deficiencies.

The receipts of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, were $390,513,203.39, and the expenditures, $433,178,426.48, showing a deficit of $42,-805,223.18. A further loan of $100,000,000 was negotiated by the government in February, 1896, the sale netting $111,-166,246, and swelling the aggregate of bonds issued within three years to $262,-315,400. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, the revenues of the government from all sources amounted to $408,475,-408.78, while its expenditures were $434,-678,654.48, or an excess of expenditures over receipts of $25,208,245.70. In other words, the total receipts for the three fiscal years ending June 30, 1896, were insufficient by $137,811,729.60, to meet the total expenditures.

Conditions Not Improving.

Nor has this condition since improved. For the first half of the present fiscal year, the receipts of the government, exclusive of postal revenues, were $157,-507,603.76, and its expenditures, exclusive of postal service, $195,410,060.22, or an excess of expenditures over receipts of $37,902,296.46. In January of this year, the receipts, exclusive of postal revenues, were $24,316,994.05, and the expenditures, exclusive of postal service, $30,-269,389.29, a deficit of $5,952,395.24 for the month. In February, of this year, the receipts, exclusive of postal revenues, were $24,400,907.38, and expenditures, exclusive of postal service, $28,796,-056.66, a deficit of $4,395,049.28, or a total deficiency of of $186,061,580.44 for the three years and eight months ending March 1, 1897. Not only are we without a surplus in the treasury, but with an increase in the public debt, there has been a corresponding increase in the annual interest charge from $22,893,883.20 in 1892, the lowest of any year since 1862, to $34,387,297.60 in 1896, or an increase of $11,493,414.40.

It may be urged that even if the revenues of the government had been sufficient to meet all its ordinary expenses during the past three years, the gold reserve would still have been insufficient to meet the demands upon it, and that bonds would necessarily have been issued for its repletion. Be this as it may, it is clearly manifest, without denying or affirming the correctness of such a conclusion, that the debt would have been decreased in at least the amount of the deficiency, and business confidence immeasurably strengthened throughout the country.

Prompt Remedy Needed.

Congress should promptly correct the existing condition. Ample revenue must be supplied not only for the ordinary expenses of the government, but for the prompt payment of liberal pensions, and the liquidation of the principal and interest of the public debt. In raising revenue duties should be so levied upon foreign products as to preserve the home market so far as possible, to our own producers; to revive and increase manufactories, to relieve and encourage agriculture; to increase our domestic and foreign commerce; to aid and develop mining and building, and to render labor in every field of useful occupation the liberal wages and adequate rewards to which skill and industry are justly entitled. The necessity of the passage of a tariff law which shall provide ample revenue, need not be further urged. The imperative demand of the hour is the prompt enactment of such a measure, and to this object I earnestly recommend that Congress shall make every endeavor. Before other business is transacted, let us first provide sufficient revenue to faithfully administer the government without the contracting of further debt, or the continued disturbance of our finances. (Signed.)

WILLIAM McKINLEY.

Executive Mansion, March 15, 1897.

HUNTER FOR SENATOR.

The Kentucky Republican Nominee Will Be Successful.

Frankfort, Ky., March 15.—For the third time death has taken a hand in the Kentucky Senatorial race, and this time it favors the Republicans. John P. Salyer, the Democratic Senator from Morgan county, died suddenly at his home yesterday morning. He was a gold

W. G. HUNTER.

Democrat, but would likely have voted with the silver Democrats to prevent the seating of the four new Republican Senators. Some of the gold Democrats have promised to vote with the Republicans to seat the new Senators, but the result has always been in doubt. Senator Ogilvie, a supporter of Blackburn, is sick at his home.

The Republicans are so confident of seating their four new Senators that they would not let one of their number go with the committee which left last night to attend Senator Salyer's funeral. They will bring the matter to a vote to-day and are confident of winning. Lieutenant governor Worthington is still of the opinion that a joint ballot for Senator cannot be taken till March 23, notwithstanding numerous telegrams from Washington have urged him to rule otherwise.

Sketch of Hunter.

Congressman W. Godfrey Hunter, who has just been nominated for United States Senator by the Republicans of Kentucky, has been prominent in Blue Grass politics ever since he ran for Congress and was disastrously defeated in 1878. He is a native of Ireland, but has lived in Kentucky so long that he is typical of the state in appearance and manner. The doctor gets his title by reason of his medical education and profession. In 1882 Dr. Hunter returned to the charge and ran the second time for Congressional honors, and was again buried in defeat. Then he went to New Mexico, and his Democratic neighbors thought they had seen the last of him. After a short sojourn in the uplands he returned to his old home, and in 1886 he was in the political field fighting with more spirit than ever. This time he was more successful. The Democrats of his district were divided, and the doctor, securing the Republican nomination a third time, was elected. In 1888 he presented himself for re-election, but the wound in the Democratic side had healed and Hunter was again defeated. In 1894 the Democrats were again weak, and Dr. Hunter was carried into Congress on the Republican tide that gave victory to other Republicans also. Dr. Hunter was before the legislature last winter in the celebrated drawn battle for the Senatorship.

WENT TO WAR WHEN 13.

Harrison County Claims Youngest Soldier of the Rebellion.

Cadiz, O., March 13.—Harrison county claims the youngest soldier in the late rebellion in the person of Homer Host, of Tappan. He was born September 13, 1850, and enlisted in the war May 13, 1864, being at the time 13 years and 8 months old. He was in a number of severe engagements and some long marches. George Bayless, formerly of Cadiz, now of San Francisco, was conceded the youngest soldier until Mr. Host's claim was made, he being 15 years old when he enlisted.

A BUILDING BOOM.

One Indication That Better Times Are Coming.

Chicago, March 15.—Real estate men are citing in support of the argument that good times are returning, the fact that two building permits for structures to cost respectively $200,000 and $100,000 have been issued during the past few days, and that plans for other big buildings aggregating over $1,000,000 are in the hands of the architects.

Long Time Between Sessions.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 13.—The upper house of the legislature has passed a bill making legislative sessions hereafter to be at ten-year intervals.

Men! Do not despair. Read Thos. Slater's offer on page 6.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLORS.

This Wonderful Feat Has Been Accomplished at Last.

Washington, March 10.—Just at a time when photographers had almost abandoned hope of ever discovering a really practicable process of color photography a report comes to the State Department from United States Consul General Mason at Frankfort, giving a description (as far as the process may be divulged) of a means of doing this in a manner so simple and inexpensive as to be available to every photographer, thus opening a new era in reproductive art.

The process is the discovery of Chassagne, a Parisian savant, and is purely chemical. Any ordinary negative before exposure is dipped in a secret colorless bath. The usual negative results and from this the usual positive is made on paper, glass or other medium. This positive being also dipped in the col

WASHINGTON.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Statesmen Have Assembled Again at Washington.

Washington, March 15.—The main interest in the assembling of the Fifty-fifth Congress in extra session to-day under President McKinley's call centered at the House end of the Capitol, where the organization of the new House and the seat lottery were the drawing cards.

The most striking feature of the scene on the floor was the number of new faces. Old familiar figures conspicuous in the shock of many a parliamentary battle had disappeared and in the new lists were new and untried knights. The change in the personnel was very great.

As the hands of the clock pointed to 12 Major McDowell, the clerk of the House, rapped the House to order. Rev. Counden, of Michigan, the blind chaplain of the House, then delivered the invocation. The clerk of the House then read the President's proclamation convoking Congress, after which the call of members was called.

When the House settled down to business Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, was re-elected speaker, the vote standing: Reed, 199; Bailey (Dem., Tex.), 114; Bell (Pop., Col.), 21; and Newlands (Silverite, Nev.), 1.

After Reed's election the members were sworn in and organization completed by election of the Republican slate as follows: Clerk of the House, Alex. McDowell, of Pennsylvania; sergeant-at-arms, Benjamin F. Russell, of Missouri; doorkeeper, William J. Glenn, of New York; postmaster, J. McElroy, of Ohio, and chaplain, Henry N. Coudon.

Senate.

Washington, March 15.—There was an abundance of flowers on the desks of Senators to-day when promptly at 12 o'clock Mr. Hobart called the Senate to order. There was an exceptionally full attendance of Senators. The public galleries were packed and the reserved galleries well filled. The roll call disclosed the presence of 68 Senators. The new Senator from Kansas, W. A. Harris, took the oath of office.

Mr. McBride, of Oregon, presented the credentials of Henry W. Corbett, appointed by the governor of Oregon to fill the vacancy caused by the failure to elect a successor to Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon.

The governor's certificate was read and Mr. McBride requested that the new Senator be sworn in if there be no objection, but Mr. Gray (Dem., Del.) said some unusual circumstances attended the appointment and that the credentials should be scrutinized. He moved the credentials be referred to the committee on privileges and elections and it prevailed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hale (Rep., Mass.) and Mr. Cockwell (Dem., Mo.) were nominated a committee to wait on the President and inform him that the Congress was in session and ready to receive any communication from him. The Senate then at 12:20 took a recess until 2 o'clock.

THE COMMITTEES.

Three of Them Appointed in the House.

Washington, March 16.—In the House yesterday the speaker announced the members of the committees on rules, ways and means and mileage as follows:

Rules—The Speaker, Henderson, Iowa; Dalzell, Pennsylvania, Republicans; Bailey, of Texas, and McMillin, of Tennessee, Democrats.

Ways and Means—Dingley, of Maine; Payne, of New York; Dalzell, Pennsylvania; Hopkins, Illinois; Grosvenor, Ohio; Russell, Connecticut; Dolliver, Iowa; Steele, Indiana; Johnson, North Dakota; Evans, Kentucky; Tawney, Minnesota, Republicans; Bailey, Texas; McMillin, Tennessee; Wheeler, Alabama; McLaurin, South Carolina; Robertson, Louisiana, and Swanson, of Virginia, Democrats.

Mileage—Wright, Massachusetts; Barham, Californian; Booze, Maryland, Republicans; Cooper, Texas, and Lewis, Georgia, Democrats.

The ways and means committee then secured leave to sit during the sessions of the House, after which, at 4 o'clock, the House on Mr. Dingley's motion, adjourned until Thursday next.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

Statement of Business for the Month of February.

Washington, March 16.—The monthly statement of the exports and imports of merchandise, gold and silver from and into the United States during February last issued by the bureau of statistics shows as follows:

Merchandise exported, $79,773,398; merchandise imported, $50,193,868 (of which $33,000,000 was free of duty). Gold exported, $336,697; gold imported, $544,700; silver exported, $4,660,362; silver imported, $762,942. As compared with February, 1896, this statement shows an increase of about $2,070,000 in the value of merchandise exported, and a decrease of over $3,250,000 in the amount imported.

For the eight months ended February 28 there was a gain of over $132,000 in the amount of merchandise exported, and a decrease of nearly $119,000,000 in the amount imported. The gold exports during February $1,847,000 less than a year ago and the imports about $11,000,000 less than February, 1896. The silver exports were about $700,000 less than February, 1896, and the imports $700,000.

INAUGURAL FIGURES.

Receipts Exceed Expenditures by Several Thousand Dollars.

Washington, March 10.—The inaugural executive committee is busily engaged in figuring up its receipts and expenses incident to the inauguration of President McKinley. The receipts, including the guarantee fund of about $50,000, were $116,066.05. The receipts from the inaugural ball were, of course, the greatest, the $47,875 taken in for tickets indicating as attendance at the ball of considerably more than 9,000 people. Receipts from supper tickets were $2,592. It is said that the caterer lost a large amount of money, as he had arranged to feed 7,000 or 8,000 people, and that his expenses in preparation was largely in excess of the amount he took in.

The concerts paid well, $12,176.50 being received for admission tickets. The sale of various privileges by the committee netted nearly $6,000. The guarantee fund will be returned to the guarantors, and, after all expenses have been paid, an amount exceeding $12,000 will be left for distribution among the charitable institutions of the District of Columbia.

Commissioner of Pensions Murphy is opposed to the use of the pension building as a place of holding inaugural balls. He said to-day that during the ten days business was suspended in the building the government lost in salaries at least $70,000.

SENATE PROCEDURE.

Amendments to Rules Will Be Offered by Mr. Hoar.

Washington, March 10.—There was an unusually large attendance of Senators when Vice President Hobart called the Senate to order at noon to-day. The first business was the reading of a letter from Governor Bradley, of Kentucky, announcing the appointment of Andrew T. Wood as Senator to succeed Mr. Blackburn.

Mr. Hoar was on his feet at once with a motion that the Senator-elect be sworn.

Mr. Gorman made a motion that the credentials of Mr. Wood be referred to the committee on privileges and elections, remarking that the questions involved were well understood. Mr. Hoar said that he would not object to that motion and the credentials were referred.

Then Mr. Hoar presented written notice of two proposed amendments to the rules of the Senate of a radical nature. The most important was, according to Mr. Hoar's notice, "To enable the Senate to act on legislation when it desires, after reasonable debate." It provided that when any bill or resolution had been under consideration more than one day any Senator could demand that debate be closed. If a majority of the Senators so decided there should be a vote without further delay and no motion should be in order pending the vote but one to adjourn, or to take a recess.

The other amendment proposed was to prevent the interruption of the business of the Senate and provided that when a Senator made the point of no quorum there should be a roll call and if the presence of a quorum was disclosed business should be proceeded with.

In executive session the Senate reconsidered its action to adjourn until Monday at 11:30, and agreed the adjournment should be sine die. This was found expedient as no business could be transacted in half an hour of Monday, and even if nominations should be made in that half hour they would fail if not immediately confirmed.

At 12:40 p. m. the special session adjourned.

SOME APPOINTMENTS

Made by President McKinley to Prominent Positions.

Washington, March 16.—The President to-day sent to the Senate the following nominations:

State—To be ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States—John Hay, of the District of Columbia, to Great Britain; Horace Porter, of New York, to France; Henry White, of Rhode Island, to be secretary of the embassy of the United States to Great Britain.

Treasury—To be assistant surgeons in the marine hospital service—Hill Hastings, of Kentucky, Claud H. Lavender, of Virginia; Taliaferro Clark, the District of Columbia.

War—Major H. H. C. Dunwoody, signal corps, to be lieutenant colonel; First Lieutenant L. P. Brant, first infantry, to be captain. Second lieutenants to be first lieutenants—H. M. Powell, Second Infantry; F. W. Sladen, Fourteenth Infantry; H. H. Bandholtz, Sixth Infantry; H. T. Ferguson, Twenty-third Infantry; H. G. Learned, Nineteenth Infantry; M. W. Rowell, Tenth Cavalry. Corporals to be second lieutenants—P. Brown, Fifth Artillery; W. D. Conrad, Fifth Cavalry; L. H. Gross, Fifth Infantry; G. H. Steel, Fifth Infantry, and Sergeant Thomas H. Franklin, Eighteenth Infantry.

Navy—Passed Assistant Engineer E. R. Freeman, to be chief engineer; Assistant Engineer U. T. Holmes, to be passed assistant engineer. Ensigns to be lieutenant junior grade—G. F. Cooper, E. T. Witherspoon, Benton C. Decker. Commander C. V. Gridley, to be captain.

Sketch of Hay.

John Hay is a native of Indiana, 59 years of age. He graduated at Brown University in 1858, and began the practice of law in Illinois in 1861. President Lincoln appointed him assistant secretary and kept him in that capacity throughout his administration. He also acted as Lincoln's adjutant and a de de camp, and was breveted lieutenant colonel and colonel. Entering the diplomatic service in the sixties he was at various times in charge at Vienna, first secretary at Paris and secretary of legation at Madrid. In 1870 Mr. Hay commenced himself with the press, and for nearly six years devoted himself to editorial work on a leading New York newspaper. In 1875 he entered politics, taking an active part in the presidential campaigns of 1876, 1880 and 1884, being then a resident of Cleveland, O. President Hayes appointed him first assistant secretary of state, which place he filled for nearly three years. Since his retirement from office Colonel Hay has resided chiefly in this city, where he occupies a palatial home on Lafayette Park, and has devoted himself to literature with the greatest success.

Horace Porter.

Gen. Horace Porter comes of revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Andrew Porter being one of Washington's most valued officers. Gen. Porter's father was David Rittenhouse Porter, at one time governor of Pennsylvania and a prosperous manufacturer. Horace Porter was born just 60 years ago in Huntington, Pa. He was well educated in his own state, at Harvard, and finally at West Point. Soon after his graduation from the military academy he was assigned to duty in the South, then in secession. He was ordnance expert, so most of his service was in the artillery branch, on the staffs of McClellan, Rosecranz and Grant, where he earned a reputation as a gallant and fearless fighter, as shown by his brevets. He served in the Chickamauga and Wilderness campaigns and the first assault on Charleston, where he was wounded. Gen. Grant was greatly attached to Gen. Porter, and made him assistant secretary of war while he himself filled the secretaryship.

He surrendered his army commission in 1873 and plunged at once into active business, being first president of the West Shore railroad, vice-president of the Pullman Car company, and associating himself with other great corporations in a directive capacity. He is well known also in the field of literature, being an author of repute and a much sought after public speaker.

The appointment of Mr. Henry White to be secretary of the American embassy in Great Britain is practically a reappointment, as Mr. White had held this office for eight years previous to the beginning of Mr. Cleveland's last administration.

MCKINLEY'S ADMINISTRATION

Has Made a Favorable Impression On the Country.

Washington, March 13.—A plain American citizen; that is what President McKinley has shown himself in this the first week of his occupancy of the Presidential office.

There were "no frills" about his inauguration address, no unnecessary exclusiveness in any part of his share of the day's doings, and when he became master of the White House its doors were thrown open, and day after day throngs of people from every section and state have been received by him. The surviving members of his old regiment, the 23rd Ohio, called upon him the day following his inauguration, and not for many years have the walls of the White House echoed such ringing cheers as those with which they greeted their old comrade and commander. The day's work over, this statesman and plain American citizen donned his hat and overcoat, and for the first time in many years there was witnessed the spectacle of a President of the United States walking unattended through the streets of Washington. This habit, which was characteristic of Gen. Grant, has been revived by that other Ohio soldier, Maj. McKinley, and strolling on Pennsylvania avenue now doff their hats to the President of the United States as he walks by, and in return receive a pleasant salutation from him.

The plans of the administration, as outlined by President McKinley's inaugural address, are received with the most cordial approval by members of all parties I say all parties, but I must withdraw that statement so far as relates to the silver Republicans. These men, who were once members of the party which President McKinley now represents, are the only men in the entire nation who seem to find no good word for the sound American sentiments of his inaugural address. Democrats, even Populists, speak in the warmest terms of him and the American principles enunciated by him, but from the men who recently deserted their party come no good words for any sentiment arising from its representative.

The return of Senator Wolcott, coupled with President McKinley's ringing utterances in favor of an international bimetallic conference, gives great encouragement to the friends of that sentiment. Senator Wolcott reports unusual interest in this subject on the continent and even in England, and is hopeful of results. President McKinley's clear terse utterances on this subject leave no doubt as to his intentions, and there is reason to believe that within a few weeks definite steps will be taken to bring about a conference of the leading nations and to cause this conference to be held during the year 1897.

IN THE HOUSE.

Small Majority Will Favor the Dingley Bill.

Washington, March 10.—The Republican leadrs now announce that the new tariff bill will pass the Senate. It will receive a majority of two votes, at least. The majority may be nine. There will doubtless be a protracted and strenuous opposition, but the bill will probably be made a law by July 1.

The Silver senators, with the excention of Teller, Steward and Mantle, have practically agreed to support the measure, and there seems little likelihood that they will change their minds. They certainly will not do so if the administration senators are tactful. Here is the result of a careful poll of the senators, showing how the vote is likely to stand: In the first two paragraphs all of the 90 senators are accounted for. In the "doubtful" list appear the names of Louisiana senators and of the Silver Republicans.

For the bill—Aldrich, Allison, Baker, Woods (Ky.), Burrows, Penrose, Caffery, Carter, Chandler, Clark (Wyo.), Corbett (Ore.), Cullom, Davis, Elkins, Foraker, Frye, Gallinger, Gear, Wellington, Hale, Hansbrough, Hawley, Platt (N. Y.), Hoar, Jones, Kyle, Lodge, McBride (Ore.), McEnery, McMillan, Mantle, Morrill, Nelson, Mason, Perkins, Pettigrew, Platt (Conn.), Pritchard, Proctor, Quay, Sewell, Hanna, Shoup, Thurston, Spooner, Fairbanks, Warren (Wyo.), Wetmore, Wilson (Wash.), Wolcott, Cannon, Turner, Heitfeld. Total 53.

Against the bill—Allen, Bacon, Bate, Berry, Butler, Henderson, Chilton, Cockrell, Daniel, Faulkner, George, Clay, Gorman, Gray, Harris, Earle, Rawlins, Jones, Kenney, Lindsay, Martin, Mills, Mitchell, Morgan, Murphy, Pasoe, Pugh, Roach, Stewart, Smith, Teller, Tillman, Turpie, Vest, Walthall, White, Harris. Total, 37.

The only doubtful senators who refuse to commit themselves until the bill is reported to the Senate are the following:

McEnery, Caffrey, Stewart, Jones, Mantle, Teller and Pettigrew.

Chairman Dingley, of the ways and means committee, says the bill will be ready for presentation to the House on Monday, when the extraordinary session will begin. In a few days after the debate opens a rule will be adopted to limit it. Each side will probably be accorded a week. It is certain, therefore, that the bill will be in the hands of the Senate finance committee early in April.

Heaven only knows how long it will be debated in the Senate, but one of the most astute Republican leaders there said to your correspondent: "It is only necessary that we shall show a majority for the bill. If we are able to convince its opponents that we have this majority, there will be no attempt to filibuster and no factious opposition."

NEW PENSION COMMISSIONER.

Will Be H. Clay Evans, of Tennessee.

Washington, March 11.—Mr. H. Clay Evans, of Tennessee, has been tendered the office of commissioner of pensions, and in all probability will accept the appointment, which is one of the most important in the departmental service at Washington outside of the cabinet offices.

Mr. Evans is well known to public men throughout the country and has long been recognized as a leader among Southern Republicans. He represented the Chattanooga district in congress for several years, and in the Harrison administration was first assistant postmaster general. Later he ran for governor of Tennessee on the Republican ticket, and made a remarkable run. The result was in doubt for many weeks, and it was not until after a warm fight before a board appointed to review the election that it finally was announced officially that Gov. Turner, his Democratic opponent, had been re-elected. He was considered for some time not unlikely to be the South's representative in McKinley's cabinet. Mr. Evans is a business man and of conceded executive ability. He is a manufacturer and has a large railroad supply repairing establishment in Chattanooga. He is also a forceful and effective speaker.

WHITE HOUSE RULES.

How President McKinley Will Handle Callers Hereafter.

Washington, March 11.—The following general rules have been decided on concerning the reception of public men and callers generally at the White House:

"The cabinet will meet Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 o'clock a. m.

"The President will receive senators and representatives in congress from 10 to 12 o'clock on all days except cabinet days.

"Persons not senators or representatives, having business with the President, will be received from 12 to 1 o'clock every day except cabinet days.

"Those having no business, but who desire to pay their respects, will be received by the President in the East room at 2 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"By direction of the President.

"JOHN ADDISON PORTER,
"Secretary to the President."

The rules are substantially the same as those of the late administration, except that Mr. McKinley does not reserve Monday to himself, and changes the hour of public reception from 1 to 3 p. m.

FOUR YEARS' TERM.

This Will Be Good News for Postmasters.

Washington, March 15.—Postmaster General Gary made the definite announcement to the Associated Press today that the administration after deliberation has decided to adhere to the four year tenure of office policy for all postmasters. He stated that, except in a few cases where removal for cause was required on account of delinquency, incompetency or other instances of unsatisfactory conduct or administration of the office, all postmasters, fourth class as well as those of presidential appointment, would be allowed to serve out a term of four years. This official statement of policy, one of the most important so far determined upon by the administration, has been awaited with great interest by the entire corps of postmasters and by the patrons of the 70,675 postoffices throughout the country.

McKinley's First Postmaster.

Washington, March 10.—The appointment of W. R. Jewell as postmaster at Danville, Ill., was sent to the Senate today. This is the first postmaster appointed and is to fill a vacancy.

NIGHT AND DAY.

One Woolen Mill Feels Effects of Better Times.

Newton, Mass., March 15.—W. S. & F. Cordingly, manufacturers of wool and merino goods at Newton Lower Falls this week begin to run their factory night and day to keep up with a large number of orders which have been received. The factory has been running on short time for two years, and up to the present has been operation only three or four days a week.

HALF-HOLIDAY LAW FAILS.

Another Bit of Special Legislation Knocked Out.

Cleveland, O., March 11.—The Saturday half-holiday law, intended as a boon to many weary toilers, has been knocked out by the circuit court. There will be sorrow throughout the state of Ohio because of this. Last summer many workingmen took advantage of the half-holiday and refused to work on Saturday afternoons. In some instances the employers readily granted the half-holiday to their men.

Those who were inclined to disfavor Sunday base ball and other amusements on the Lord's day used the argument that the workingmen had Saturday afternoon granted them by law in which to amuse themselves. Now this argument is gone.

The law was some of that "pernicious special legislation" which has received a number of damaging blows from the supreme court of the state. By this time all special legislation still on the statute books must be blowing hard. The supreme court has given out a number of assurances that it will strike hard the next time it gets a chance. They will be death blows.

The law was passed by the last general assembly, and was pronounced by many attorneys, as soon as they saw the statute, to be unconstitutional. They based their opinions on a clause of the statute which stated that the law was only applicable in cities containing 50,000 and more inhabitants. It was reasoned that the legislature could not legally give the larger cities a half-holiday law and refuse the same to inhabitants of any other city in the state containing less than 50,000 people.

The case upon which the circuit court declared the law to be unconstitutional was that of Diemer against Hudson, constable. It was a many cornered fight in which certain property was replevined and again replevined. The contention was made that a writ was made out and served on a Saturday afternoon, and that it was therefore illegal. Judge Dissette declared that the proceeding was illegal because the writ was made out and served on a legal half-holiday. This declared the half-holiday law to be constitutional.

Judge Caldwell gave the opinion for the circuit court yesterday. Among other things he said: "The half-holiday law is one on a general subject. A general holiday is a subject of a nature pertaining to every part of the state, and there is no natural distinction existing between those parts of the state that are subject to the law and those that are not. There is no ground whatever upon which the legislature can make that classification, and for this reason the law is unconstitutional. The action of the common pleas is overruled and the case is remanded."

A DARK MYSTERY.

Is the Shooting of Mrs. Bragg in Chicago.

Chicago, March 12.—The mystery surrounding the shooting of Mrs. Caroline E. Bragg, the wealthy sister-in-law of Gen. Bragg, of Wisconsin, has not yet been fathomed by the police. In fact, as far as conclusive evidence goes, the case seems further from solution than ever. Her adopted daughter, Josephine, is still under arrest.

At the hospital Mrs. Bragg asked to speak with an officer alone. She said: "You need not look for burglars, for we were alone. I positively did not fire the shot. I never owned a revolver and don't know how to use one. Josephine did not fire the shot. She has always been a good girl to me."

Mrs. Bragg yesterday afternoon sent for her attorney and dictated to him a new will, leaving her estate, valued at $50,000, to J. W. and William Gallagher, of Ohio. In the new document Mrs. Bragg's explicit orders are that Josephine's name shall not be mentioned. The attorney says Mrs. Bragg refused to tell him anything which would tend to solve the mystery.

THE LEADVILLE STRIKE.

End of a Labor Fight That Has Cost Much Money.

Leadville, Colo., March 10.—At a meeting the miners' union held last night, it was held by a vote of approximately 900 to 200, to declare the strike off. This is the direct result of a recent vigorous effort on the part of E. V. Debs and Miss Manager Tingley S. Wood, who is very popular with the miners. The strikers have been growing very lostless of late, owing to the reduction of the weekly relief allowance to an amount barely sufficient for meagre subsistence, and the apparent hopelessness of any change in the attitude of the managers.

The strike was declared June 19, 1896, and has lasted over eight months. It has cost the camp fully $4,000,000 besides the cost to the labor organizations of the country, which have contributed steadily and generously in aid of the strikers, not to mention fully a dozen human lives.

The union claimed 2,200 members when the strike began, and the vote last night shows the decrease, chiefly by migration to other camps, but largely by withdrawals of men now at work here.

MOTHER M'KINLEY.

She Returns to Her Canton Home in Excellent Health and Spirits.

Canton, O., March 12.—"Mother" Nancy Allison McKinley and her daughter, Miss Helen McKinley, who were in Washington for the inauguration ceremonies, reached Canton this morning in the private car of Vice President Pugh, of the Pennsylvania Company, attached to the regular Pennsylvania train.

"Mother" McKinley, is well on toward ninety years of age, does not seem in the least fatigued by her visit, and when she left the car and greeted her friends at the station to-day she seemed remarkably hale and sprightly for one of her years.

"I was having too good a time to get tired," she said in answer to a question. She seems glad, however, to get back to her Canton home, and would not care to change it for a residence in Washington.

FOREST RESERVES.

Washington's Legislature Wants Cleveland's Order Annulled.

Seattle, Wash., March 13.—The chamber of commerce has memoralized congress for the enactment of legislation annulling President Cleveland's forest reserve order, saying in part:

"These reservations embrace all the mining country in the state of Washington, and if they are allowed to stand, our chief industry will soon have been blotted out of existence. This development of the state will have been disastrously checked. For the purpose of preserving valuable forests in Washington, the proclamation comes forty-five years too late."

SUGAR BEETS.

New York May Spend Some Money Encouraging the Industry.

Albany, March 11.—In the Assembly yesterday a bill was introduced to encourage the sugar beet industry. The bill provides that the state commissioner of agriculture shall appoint a resident inspector in each town where sugar manufactories are located, whose output is over 2,000 pounds of sugar per day.

Not more than 1 cent per pound is to be paid as a bounty for any grade of sugar manufactured. The bill provides that $100,000 shall be appropriated to pay the bounty.

Flaw in the Antiquart-Shop Law.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 11.—The discovery was made yesterday that there is a serious question whether the anti-quart-shop law, passed at the recent session of the legislature, can be made operative, the fact having appeared that it contains no penalty for violations of its provisions. The temperance people will endeavor to enforce it, however, claiming that the intent was clear and that the court will so construe it that the measure will be effective.

Good morning. Have you read Thos. Slater's offer for men on page 2

THE GREAT SNOW STORM.

Railroads Blockaded Completely Over a Large Territory.

St. Paul, March 13.—Reports of the great storm Thursday are coming in faster than the railroad trains, for these are generally blockaded or delayed and it will be several days before the railroads are in running order. A rotary snow plow was stranded on the Great Northern within three miles of Brown's Valley, Minnesota. Trains were generally abandoned in western and northern Minnesota.

The storm and wind effectually blockaded all trains around Huron, S. D. Snow drifted all day and nothing could be done toward raising the blockade, which is the most complete ever experienced in the state.

Reports from all parts of South Dakota give evidence of the storm's fury. Some lines are buried beneath 10 to 15 feet of snow and drifts are miles in length. Fuel and feed for cattle is very limited in many localities, and should the temperature, which was 10 degrees below zero at Huron, continue many days, suffering will result to the stock. On account of the deep snow seeding will be delayed three weeks over most of the states east of the Missouri river.

At Ashland, Wis., special to the Pioneer Press says: It is rumored that numerous lives were lost in the great blizzard which swept the shore of Lake Superior Thursday night. The storm came from the northwest, piling the ice high on the Apostle island and points on the south shore of the lake.

The snow is already four feet on the level and in the extreme Northwest pineries is now six inches deeper. It is estimated that the loss to loggers by the deep snow is a quarter of a million dollars. Blocked trains are unusual in heavily timbered regions and this is the first time this winter that trains have been blockaded.

The snow in the streets of Ashland is from four to six feet deep and reports from the Minnesota to the Michigan state line for from 75 to 100 miles south of Lake Superior are to the effect that the snow is from three to four feet deep.

THE MISSISSIPPI BOOMING.

Vast Territory Devastated by the Father of Waters.

Memphis, Tenn., March 15.—The day dawned dark and gloomy for the homeless inhabitants of the flood-stricken districts in the territory near this point. Rain began falling shortly after 7 o'clock, and at this hour is coming down in torrents, adding to the misery and suffering already caused by the overflowing of streams.

The work of rescuing people and stock continues, and is being conducted systematically. A citizens' relief committee has been organized, boats chartered and funds raised.

By these means hundreds of head of stock and almost as many men, women and children have been rescued from house and tree tops in the overflowed district and brought to this city by harbor towboats, with barges attached.

The gauge here reads 36.3, a rise of one foot in 24 hours, and all indications point towards a further rise. News comes to-day of the partial breaking of the St. Francis levee 60 miles above Memphis, at a point near the south end of the levee. Just what damage will result cannot be foretold, but local steamer captains say great additional suffering and loss will result.

On all of the islands near the city and in the low lands of Arkansas there is great suffering among the people, and there is a great loss of stock and property. People continue leaving the low-lands for this side of the river.

At Marion, where a break in the dyke occurred Friday night, a scene of desolation exists. The little town is four or five feet under water, many houses and cabins have been washed away and the inhabitants have sought shelter elsewhere. Hundreds of horses and cattle have been destroyed by the resistless waters.

At Sans Souci, a small town immediately below Osceola, the Anchor line steamer Bluff City yesterday afternoon attempted to land her passengers and freight. The levee patrolmen ordered the captain to keep his boat moving, saying that the waves from the steamer's wheels would break over the levee. The captain, however, attempted to land when the boat was met by a wholesale fusilade of bullets from the shore, but fortunately no one was hurt.

FOUGHT AT BALAKLAVA.

Death of a Member of the Famous Light Brigade.

Phoenixville, Pa., March 15.—Barney McKernan, a survivor of the Light Brigade, which was made famous by their charge at Balaklava during the Crimean war, died at the home of his daughter in this place Saturday night.

Barney McKernan was probably the last survivor of the famous charge in this country. He was born in Lathran, West Ireland, 72 years ago, and when 18 years old he ran away from home and joined the cavalry regiment known as the Seventeenth Lancers at Maidstone, England.

In the spring of 1854 the Crimean war broke out, and his regiment was sent to the Black Sea. McKernan reached Sebastopol in the following fall.

The famous charge of the Light Brigade took place soon after the regiment arrived. McKernan was a member of the brigade, and in the charge. When his commander, Captain Nolan, fell, McKernan leaped from his horse, drew the dying captain from under his horse, which had fallen upon him, and held his head in his lap until he died. For this act of bravery he received medals from the Queen of England and the Sultan of Turkey.

He was at the taking of the great Sedan, and was one of the first to scale the bulwarks of the Malakoff. When the war ended he returned to England, and soon afterward came to this country. He made his way to Phoenixville, and resided here ever since.

EX-SENATOR DOLPH DEAD.

Amputation of a Leg Results in His Death.

Portland, Ore., March 11.—Ex-Senator Joseph N. Dolph died at 11:30 a. m. yesterday. On Monday his leg was amputated in the hope of saving his life, which was threatened with blood-poisoning. The shock was too great, and at no time since the operation has there been a possibility of his recovery.

Joseph N. Dolph was born in Watkins, N. Y., in 1835, and came to Oregon in 1862. He was appointed United States district attorney for Oregon by President Lincoln. In 1882 he was elected United States senator, and served two full terms.

He received the caucus nomination for a third term at the session of the legislature two years ago, but was defeated after a deadlock, which lasted until the last day of the session, when McBride was elected.

WALLING AND JACKSON.

Governor Bradley Has Granted No Respite.

Cincinnati, March 15.—The Times-Star's special from Frankfort, Ky., says: Alonzo Walling will hang with Scott Jackson on March 20th. All the published stories to the contrary notwithstanding. The governor finished his long study of the case to-day at noon and announced that he would officially pass on the matter to-night at 7 o'clock. He will write "refused" across the back of the petition and troops are already under marching orders to Campbell county March 19, the day before the double hanging.

Grant Sarcophagus.

New York, March 15.—The Sarcophagus in which the late Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's remains will be placed in his tomb on Riverside drive, arrived from Wisconsin via the Pennsylvania road at Jersey City to-day. It is in three pieces and was taken to the foot of West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street from whence it will be taken to the tomb.

Radway's Pills

Purely vegetable, mild and reliable. For the cure of all disorders of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, Kidneys, Bladder, Female Irregularities, Sick Headache, Biliousness, Constipation, Piles, one of Radway's Pills is sufficient to keep the bowels regular and secure PERFECT DIGESTION, and one of Radway's Pills will accomplish a better purpose than six of the ordinary drastic pills. A few doses will prove the correctness of this statement. Sold by Druggists, 25c a box, or by mail. RADWAY & CO., New York.

THE CIGARETTE TRUST.

Court Delivers a Decision In Its Favor.

Trenton, N. J., March 12.—Vice Chancellor Reed this morning filed with the clerk of the court of chancery his decision dismissing the bill brought against the American Tobacco Co.

The suit was brought jointly in the name of the attorney general and Miller Bros., tobacco dealers of Newark, for the purpose of restraining the tobacco trust from transacting its business and from conducting the business in a manner prejudicial to the complainants and injurious to the people of the state of New Jersey.

The opinion is a voluminous one and Vice Chancellor Reed makes comparison as to what would be the rights of an individual and of a corporation under the same condition. He says that it would not be thought of to go into court to restrain an individual from exercising the right of selling to whom he pleased, and he argues that a corporation has the same right in this respect as an individual.

He says it is perfectly obvious in this case that upon the assumption that the American Tobacco Co. is a legally organized corporation, that there is not the least ground for imputing to its conduct since its incorporation of an ultra vires character.

The question as to whether the corporation is legally organized is one the vice chancellor holds which should be determined by a court at law under quo warranto proceedings.

Robert Blaine Dead.

Washington, March 10.—Robert G. Blaine, a brother of the late James G. Blaine, died last night at his residence in this city. He was 65 years of age and leaves a widow and six children.

Markets and Crops.

LAST WEEK'S TRADE REVIEW.

Trade Conditions Are Becoming Better Week by Week.

Trade Conditions Are Becoming Better Week by Week.

New York, March 13.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

It is a curious illustration of human nature, this continued discouragement, even while the increase of productive industries and of legitimate business steadily grows. No genuine or lasting improvement could come otherwise than slowly and step by step, after such depression as the past four years have witnessed, and the most hopeful feature of the situation is that the gain is so nearly devoid of elements which involve unsoundness and probable reaction. The first step toward prosperity is to get the wheels started and the hands employed, and the number of works which have resumed or increased force during the past week seems greater than in any other week since November. While the start has been secured in many cases by contracts at extreme low prices, involving some reduction of wages, the hands are earning more even so, and add more to the general purchasing power of not working at all, and thus far important strikes have been avoided in many cases, although some are still threatened.

The speculation in wool continues and sales for the two weeks have been 17,903,099 pounds, of which 9,921,700 were domestic, whereas the largest previous sales for the same period were 12,017,676 less in 1892, of which 8,369,426 were domestic.

While there is much trade between dealers, manufacturers show by purchasing far beyond their present wants the belief that larger business is coming.

Iron furnaces March 1 were producing 169,980 tons weekly, four per cent more than February 1, and although visible stocks have increased 30,024 tons in four weeks, still more furnaces have started this month. The demand for finished products still lags behind the supply of pig iron except in the great steel works, whose stocks are not reported, but their orders, without doubt, cover full production for several months. Bessemer pig is a shade lower, but no other change in quotations appears, and there is gradual increase in the demand for plates, sheets, and all the wire family of products. With the advent of spring weather and outdoor work, much more business is expected. The starting of the Maryland rail works under contract with the Carnegie company in order to make shipments by water more cheaply, is significant.

Failures for the past week have been 256 in the United States against 300 last year, and 61 in Canada against 60 last year.

New York, March 13.—Bradstreet's says: Continued activity in various industrial lines, based on an expanding consumptive demand, fairly steady prices for staples, further improvement in railway earnings and widespread confidence that the volume of business will expand materially in the near future, are the features of the week. Spring demand has begun to show itself with retail houses. There is a better inquiry for shoes, hats and clothing and for light hardware and agricultural implements west and southwest. Industrial revival has been offset in instances by the closing of factories and mills, and in others by continued operation dependent upon paying reduced wages. Offerings of cotton goods have been in excess of demand, notwithstanding the curtailment of output. Wool continues active and firm in price, but manufacturers are buying sparingly in addition to requirements to meet present contracts. The central west and northwest report that distribution of general merchandise was interrupted by floods and washouts. Prices have been fairly steady, noteworthy decreases being those for tea, sugar, coffee, lard and wheat. The drop in the prices of wheat, in the face of the government's remarkably bullish report on stock of wheat in farmers' hands, indicates continued lack of faith in the Agricultural department outlook as to the size of crops and stocks of the same.

Exports of wheat from both coasts of the United States (flour included as wheat), amount to only 1,500,482 bushels this week against 2,075,000 bushels last week, and forms the smallest week's total since the last week of April, 1896. Exports of Indian corn continue heavy, amounting to 5,310,000 bushels against 5,525,000 bushels last week.

WALLING AND JACKSON.

Governor Bradley Has Granted No Respite.

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AMERICAN CROPS.

Interesting Figures From the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, March 11.—The crop report of the Department of Agriculture, based on returns from three independent sets of regular correspondents, added to several thousand from mills and elevators, all carefully combined and weighted, relates principally to the distribution of principal grains, the stocks remaining on farms and the proportions of merchantable and unmerchantable. All grain in the hands of farmers, including amounts remaining over the previous years, are included in the estimates given.

The corn on hand, as estimated, aggregates 1,164,000,000 bushels, or 51 per cent of the last crop, against 1,072,000,000 in March, 1896. Both the proportion and the quantity in original hands at this date are unprecedented, although closely approached last year and in March, 1890. Correspondents report large stocks in cribs, particularly in the prairie states, awaiting better prices.

The aggregate sold from farms to [illegible] beyond county lines is 623,000,000 bushels, or 37.3 per cent. of the crop. The proportion merchantable is 1,936,000,000, or 84.8 per cent.

The wheat reserves in farmers' hands amount to 20.6 per cent of the crop, or 88,000,000 bushels, against 123,000,000 bushels last March. Of this amount 3 per cent is reported as coming over from previous crops. The proportion of wheat sold outside the county is 51.7 per cent.

Of oats there are 313,000,000 bushels, or 44.2 per cent of the 1896 crop yet in farmers' hands. Proportion shipped beyond county lines, 27 per cent.

MICHIGAN WHEAT CROP

Was Not Materially Injured During February.

Lansing, Mich., March 10.—The March crop report issued by Secretary of State Garner says:

Wheat in Michigan was not materially damaged during February. In answer to the question "Has wheat during February suffered from any cause?" 120 correspondents in the state answer "yes" and 613 "no."

Correspondents this month have undertaken to answer the question, "What per cent of the wheat crop of 1896 is at present in the farmers' hands?" The returns indicate that there was an equivalent of 17 per cent of the crop of 1896 in farmers' hands on March 1.

HARD ON LIVE STOCK.

Winter in the Northwest Has Been Severe.

Helena, Mont., March 15.—Secretary W. G. Preutt, of the board of stock commissioners, said to-day:

"The stock on the range has had a remarkably hard time the whole winter. In the extreme northern part of the state it has not been above zero for weeks and stock was in poor condition when this began. The stock that has weathered the winter is in poor condition. Unless relief comes at once, the loss will be the heaviest in years."

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., March 16, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	March 16.	March 9.
U. S. 4's (new) coupon	125¾	125¾
U. S. 4's (new) registered	125¾	125¾
U. S.